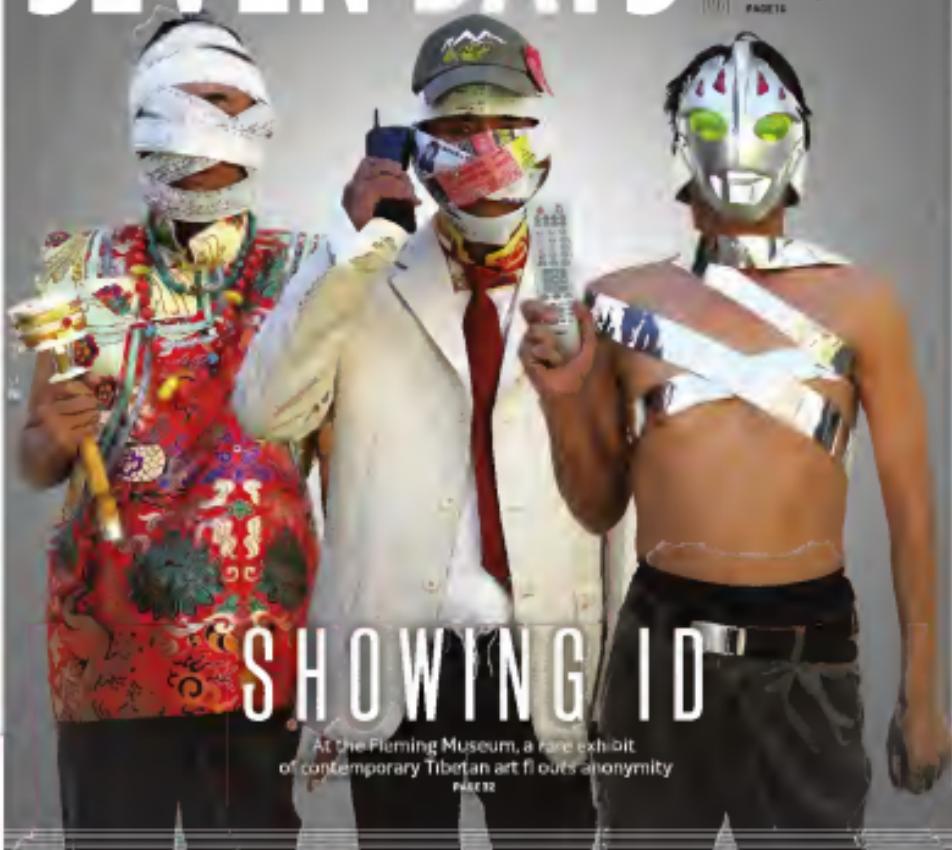


SEVEN DAYS

A RAW DEAL

Danny Kummens
protest regga
PAGE 14



SHOWING ID

At the Fleming Museum, a rare exhibit of contemporary Tibetan art flouts anonymity

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IN THE RING

PAGE 32

Vermont's Golden Gloves



MASS APPEAL

PAGE 32

Father Rich draws a crowd



CAPITOL CUISINE

PAGE 44

Alice Levitt eats with the pals

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Republican Sunset on Burlington City Council?



KURT WRIGHT
Republican



ANNA LESMAN
Democrat



RON BULLOFT
Independent



SEINE CULBRETH
Progressive

Two Republicans—one veteran and one newcomer—is set to maximize their party's influence on the Burlington City Council.

Incumbents will decide the council races on Town Meeting Day March 6. Democrats and Republicans are eyeing for their northern Ward 4 and Ward 5 of Burlington's seven wards they would try claim to all four. New North candidates leaving Republicans without representation on the council, Alison Pearcey, resigned "Sunday on the Seven Days" on Monday after a year.

Democrats currently control seven seats on the 15-seat council. While Progressive held four Independents, two and Republicans one. Two incumbent Democrats and one Republican apid to visit their seats this spring rather than seek re-election.

Kurt Wright, a state representative and former city councilor and mayor candidate will try to reclaim his old seat in Ward 4. Carl Cole, a first-time Democratic candidate will challenge him. Also on the ticket is Loyal Post 1 Libertarian who ran in the past.

Meanwhile, in Ward 5, two first-time candidates will face off. Thomas Tratt, a Republican and Anna Lesman is Democrat. The 34-year old Lesman moved

to Ward 5 in Burlington from Stowe and has power in Ward 5.

Progressives meanwhile are well positioned to hold their ground or even gain a fifth councilor. Seine Culbreth is running unopposed for an open Ward 1 seat, while Progressive Councilor Mike Tracy is hoping to hold onto his in Ward 2.

Ryan Johnson, a Democrat stepped down as spokesman for the Vermont Democratic Party in early December and is now competing for Tracy's seat.

Wards 3 and 6 will be quiet, no one emerged to challenge Democratic Councilor Chip Hansen in the former or Independent Councilor Karen Ladd on the latter. In Ward 2, Ron Bulloft, an Independent who has run in past years will square off against Progressive Councilor Rachel Siegel.

Wright will have the advantage of widespread name recognition in Ward 4. He said he is concerned if Republicans were wiped off the council completely. "There is a real distinct possibility we could have the first time in memory no Republicans on the council."

facing facts



DRIVING

The state of Vermont has recorded as a Vermont law professor are charged with making much as the Vermont state road. Wronged in 2006, 2007



ILL IN THE FAMILY

Michael Barton, husband of the late Billy Ray will replace his wife in the Vermont Senate after legislators left office from the other legislative.



LEVELING UP

More positives for local techs. Burlington City Council project, to support the community-oriented egg development.



IN YOUR HONOR

For Vermonters' 100th birthday, the Vermont Department of Corrections has created a special amount of the Vermont's most popular dish.



56

That is the percentage of Vermont high school seniors who said they had been or caused while driving in the past 30 days, according to the Department of Health survey.

TOP FIVE

RECENT VOTER REGISTRATION BY PARTY

1. **Democrats** 1,000,000
2. **Independents** 500,000
3. **Republicans** 300,000
4. **Green** 100,000
5. **Others** 100,000

tweet of the week:



Alison Pearcey

Resigned from the Burlington City Council just after the end of the 2015-16 legislative session. She is the first woman to do so in the history of the council.

ALISON PEARCEY, BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

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discusses spiking use as a lesser threat than long driving, underage drinking and marijuana use. Tell that to the person next door driving to Rutland or West Lebanon everyday for treatment, tell that to the parent who watched their child drop out of college and into a den of prostitutes, tell that to the high school counselor who talk to parents about student human use.

This article does not support the kind of awareness our communities need to help battle this crisis. Opiate use is a private epidemic to which Devin's numbers give little justice. This is just half the story. We need more emphasis on just how real and close this problem is and not a distraction in the press that sedates our awareness.

a. Smith
Montpelier

ALLERGIES AREN'T PREFERENCES

The last sentence of "Sensitivity Siege" (January 15) gets at the crux of what angers me as someone who has to manage life-threatening food allergies for my son. The chef in the story admits to saying that he could not eat a meal because he was allergic to mushrooms, when in reality he just disliked them. We have to carry as Epipens everywhere because of the food allergies with which my son has been diagnosed through blood and pinprick tests. I pray every time we eat out that the staff takes me seriously when I ask questions about dishes and food prep. My requirements are pretty minimal. Please let me know if there are ingredients in the dish to which my son is allergic and please don't use a cutting board, etc. for him due to that has been used for nuts without washing it first.

I worry that the voices of people with food preferences (not allergies or other serious conditions) will drown out my question. As it is, when I talk about eggs, to which my son is also allergic, I am often offered a gluten-free menu. My son is not allergic to wheat, but any allergy question nowadays triggers a plates-free response. I hope the restaurant still takes my questions seriously. These people without allergies will not use the word "allergy" to describe their sensitivity or food preferences. I hope we never have to use that Epipen.

Suzanne Edmonson
MONTPELIER

NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT ABORTION LAW

In the January 15 Fair Game ("A Choice Choice"), Vermont Right to Life stated that the discussion of 5315 in the legislature is a "joke." In a country where reproductive health care for women continues to be threatened by abortion status, this conversation is certainly something to laugh about. Governor Paul Hebert rightly points out that 5315 would eradicate an anti-abortion law that was written in 1944. The statute criminalizes abortion providers with up to 20 years of prison time. This is completely absurd and this is not Vermont. We believe in access to reproductive health care and a woman's right to choose. I suppose keeping an outdated criminal statute on the books year after year is kind of funny, but that year, hopefully, it will finally go.

Heather Allen
BURLINGTON

BOLLES HAS STYLE

Thank you for Dan Bolles' kind review of Mattie Palmer's CD, *Out of Nothing* (Jubilee Review, January 15). I suppose one of the traditional tenets of journalism is to remain neutral and perhaps even sensible. We've left that behind, thankfully, but I was struck by how gracefully Bolles conveyed more than an objective opinion in his writing. The reviewer ended up communicating clearly what he wanted to say about Mattie's objectively but was enveloped by her ballad character. It's rare that I see reviews be as informative and as personal as his was. I congratulate Seven Days on a distinctive style and am happy to make Bolles' acquaintance via Mattie.

Will Ackerman
OLBURNSTON

Ackerman is the Grammy Award-winning guitarist and composer who founded Windham Hill Records.

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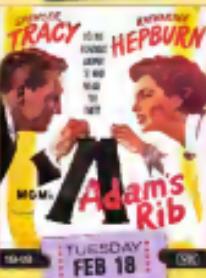
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The Devolution Might Be Televised

A civil war has ignited at Vermont Public Television — and we're not talking about the *Revolta* documentary.

Divisions divide the 46-year-old station, with current and former board members and employees pitted against one another — and allegations of sexual harassment. Being Who's responsible for the internecine warfare? Either president and CEO JOHN KING or board chairman PAUL MACKENZIE, depending on whom you ask.

For the past two years the das-brothering at war, but behind the scenes according to several people involved. At issue whether King, a 27-year veteran of the station and a leading national figure in public television, should stay or go.

Since the station announced three weeks ago that it was the subject of a Corporation for Public Broadcasting investigation, the press coverage — including last week's *For Game* — has mostly focused on whether the board held at least 30 meetings in violation of federal open meetings laws. That's what an anonymous critic — seemingly with inside knowledge — alleged in a letter sent to Christians Eve to the CPB, which provides VPT with 36 percent of its funding.

But a better question is why the board would meet so frequently behind closed doors.

According to four people with knowledge of board business, a preoccupation of the secret meetings were held to discuss anonymous allegations lodged against King by a former employee in January 2013.

That former employee told Seven Days on Monday that King repeatedly showed sexually explicit remarks in her. She alleged that King made "inappropriate" sexual comments in her presence roughly a dozen times, contributing to what she called a hostile environment. She also accused him of engaging in questionable practices when fundraising and managing grant money.

King vigorously disputed all the charges.

"There was a complaint filed two years ago by a former employee, which was fully investigated over the course of several weeks and found to be unsubstantiated," King said in a statement responding to Seven Days' questions.

Backing King up was former board chairman JIM WYEST.

"During 2013, the board undertook an investigation of complaints that had been made by a former employee and concluded that they were without merit," said Wyest, who resigned from the board in November.

But the allegations were taken seriously enough at the time that in the four months after the former employee approached Mackenzie with her allegations, the board's executive committee met in secret at least 13 times to discuss the matter. In March 2013, board members hired Churchill, Eagle & Associates — a St. Albans-based human resources firm — to investigate the matter and interview current and former employees.

What came of the inquiry — and the secret meetings — remains unclear. But in internal emails to the former employee on April 26, 2013, Mackenzie wrote, "Thank you for participating in the investigation. The Board has taken the information you

provided seriously and has followed up."

In addition to the original accused, four other former VPT staffers spoke with Seven Days — and all expressed gravitas with King.

One accused him of "intimidation," while two others said they witnessed him engaging in "inappropriate" behavior. King denied witnessing King making sexually explicit comments in the original complaint four times and routinely making "sassy" and "sexual" comments about and toward other female employees. They variously described King as "existing over an 'unpleasant place,'" with "an environment of fear" and a "culture of real persons."

Not everybody at VPT shares the employee's concerns.

In a letter sent to board members in December 2013, four senior managers urged support for their boss in the face of what they called a "misunderstanding of what it is for members of the Board and our President."

"Again, we understand that John has lost the confidence of several members of the Board," the senior management team wrote. "We speak unanimously, however, when we say that he has lost ours. We look forward to moving ahead with the leadership of our CEO and the support of our Board."

And while some ex-employees may place the blame for the station's public relations problems at King's feet, many current employees appear to find fault with Mackenzie and her fellow board leaders.

When the board met Monday at Burlington's DoubleTree Hotel, 10 VPT staffers stood up as major gifts director CHUCK REINHOLD sent a letter signed by 39 of the station's 32 non-managed employees. The letter's signers expressed concern that the CPB's investigation into the board's private meetings could result in fine that would deal "a financial blow" to the station.

"It is in our understanding that the resignations of board members referenced in the complaint may help to expedite the investigation process and minimize catastrophic impact to VPT," Reinhold said, reading from the letter and referring to Mackenzie and vice-chairman PAUL HOFSTETTER. "With that in mind, we would like you to consider this possibility."

Thus far, it doesn't appear that Mackenzie and Hofstetter are going to take that advice. The two passed a unanimous vote Monday morning to accept a trio of recommendations pitched by the board's male committee charged to mend fences with the CPB. Those three include reviewing the station's public meetings complaint policies and ensuring the CPB "is welcome" — that the board is addressing the matter.

So what's next for Vermont's most dysfunctional television station? One that relies on the good will — and cold hard cash — of the state and federal government, local viewers and corporate underwriters?

For now, it looks like relations between King and the board may get worse before they get better. When asked for comment, Mackenzie said about the ex-employee's allegations, "King suggested that the board was responsible for leaking information about the situation."

"It is the obligation of the Board to protect all personnel matters," he said in the statement. "I would be surprised if any personal information of staff or management was compromised. We're not going to jump in any conclusions here, but there are serious consequences for a board that cannot protect personal matters of its staff."

And King quickly sought to redirect the conversation toward the board's alleged misconduct.

"The matter at hand is the Board's compliance with open meeting requirements — not a closed and confidential personnel matter," he wrote. "Let's focus on improving VPT's compliance, not changing the subject."

No doubt everybody at VPT would



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profile to change the channel. But it's difficult to imagine how a volunteer board can continue to govern a paid staff that's called for the center of its leadership. And it's difficult to imagine how a president and CEO can continue to run an organization whose board won't be held.

In a war of attrition, nobody wins. June 26, Ken Burns.

Senator Strotzkin

For more than 30 years, lobbyist **ROBOTTI** has walked the corridors of the Statehouse, bringing legislation to vote in the interests of his mostly liberal clients.

But on February 11, Strotzkin will join the ranks of the herosaged. That's when the Queen Anne and South Burlington student will be sworn in as Chittenden County's newest state senator.

The occasion will surely be bittersweet. Strotzkin will be replacing the late senator **HALFORD** for his wife of 35 years.

"It was a hard decision, but I think I can do the job well and honor Sally's work of the past and continue it," he said Monday after he was appointed to the seat by Gov. **PETER SHUMLIN**.

Strotzkin's ascension to the Senate was a sudden development. In the weeks after Rock's January 10 death, no fewer than six Chittenden County Democrats expressed interest in completing her two-year term. Several of the candidates—including former Vermont Democratic Party chair **MARK PERKINS** and Reps. **KEVIN KELLY** (D-Burlington) and **ROB ROSEN** (D-Roxbury Junction)—were well known and well liked by local Dems.

Jeff grinning his wife, Strotzkin did not put his name into the running and last Tuesday on the eve of the county Democrats' meeting to nominate their permanent successors.

As word spread of Strotzkin's answer, Perkins and Ross quickly dropped out. Jerman followed suit Wednesday evening. With just three candidates remaining, the county Dems reconstituted all three—Strotzkin, Wilson, and Burlington manager **DEBORA INGRAM**—and Burlington manager **CHRISTOPHER MERRILL**—to Strotzkin.

According to Strotzkin spokesman **ROB ALLEN**, the governor spoke with Ingram and Kelly and met with Strotzkin last week.

"There were several exceptional candidates interested in this Senate seat," Strotzkin said in a written statement. "But Sally wanted her husband to fill her seat after her death, and recognizing her夫's strong qualifications, I'm honoring that request. I'm confident that Michael will continue the great work Sally did for the district and the state."

In order to avoid conflicts of interest with his current clients, Strotzkin said he planned to quit his day job and set his sights on his lobbying firm, Strotzkin &

Nelson.

"I'm hoping to discharge both informally and formally as soon as possible, but certainly before I'm sworn in," he said.

In the Statehouse last week, several fellow lobbyists said they felt confident that Strotzkin would be able to vote independently of the interests of his former clients, which include the Chamber of Vermont Elders, the Vermont Trooper Association, Gov. **SARAH WENTWORTH**, the Marquette Policy Project and Commoner.

"I think people who understand the role of government in society understand the need to wear one hat and then take that hat off and wear another hat," said Eric Smith, lobbyist **ROB ROSEN**. "Because Michael's a lawyer, he gets that." Strotzkin's appointment didn't take effect immediately. Strotzkin explained in a written statement, because he was required to give Strotzkin some space.

In light of Sally's recent passing, I asked Michael to take a little time to himself before assuming his duties in the Senate," the governor said.

Politics

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS / MONTPELIER Bureau has been shedding jobs for years. Since 2007, its staff of six has been cut in half. Last year the bureau lost its editorial and staff photographer positions when **THOMAS** retired.

Last week, the AP announced some good news: it had dispatched broadsheet nation **MARK GARBUTT** to Montpelier for a "temporary assignment" covering two state. Garbutt previously worked at WNET in New York and at the PBS NewsHour.

Explaining the nature of her "temporary assignment," AP spokesman **PAUL CARRASCO** said, "AP typically adds reporters during the busy legislative sessions in some capitals around the country."

But does that mean we'll lose poor Rich before we even knew him, when all the legislators return to their nubile holes come May?

"She's not expected to go elsewhere after the legislative session," Colford says. "That is, her 'temporary assignment'—means that this isn't a permanent staff position, though some temporary hires do move on to other assignments."

Oh, right.

Disclosure: Paul Heintz is an occasional *postscript* guest on VPR's "Morning That Rock."

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Treatment or Trial? Growing 'Rapid-Intervention' Program Gives Addicted Offenders a Choice

BY MARK DAVIS

Three defendants sat at a table in a small office in the Chittenden County State Attorney's Office, describing their addictions to heroin and prescription opiates.

The group included a 25-year-old law school student who was found passed out in his car with a bag of heroin, a 21-year-old business man who routinely drove from New York City to support a \$300-a-day heroin habit, and a 20-year-old mother who lost custody of her four children because she got caught stealing to fill another's prescription drug addiction.

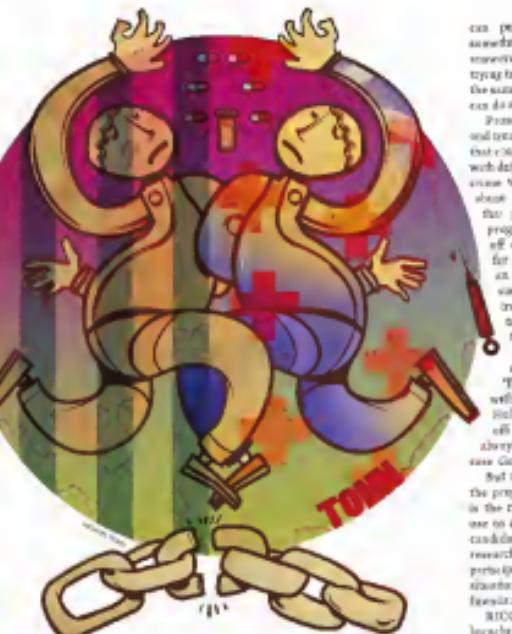
All three were arrested in the past year, but none is facing criminal charges, thanks to a program recently cited by Gov. Peter Shumlin as a model for a more efficient and humane approach to drug related crime. Chittenden County's Rapid Intervention Community Court.

"I just need somebody, one person, to give me a chance and have a little bit of hope," said the law school mother, Jessie. When her fellow defendants requested anonymity for this article,

It looks like many more Vermonters will be entering similar programs. What began four years ago as an experiment to reduce recidivism in Chittenden County is now being hailed as a example for others. Addison and Lamoille counties have recently launched their own versions of RICC, programs in Rutland and Franklin counties are scheduled to come online in early February.

In his recent State of the State address, which focused squarely on Vermont's opiate epidemic, Shumlin proposed investing \$760,000 to further expand the program, which treats drug crime as a public health issue as well as a criminal justice challenge.

Chittenden County State Attorney T.J. Donovan pioneered the rapid-intervention approach — which allows addicts to avoid prosecution by agreeing to treatment shortly after arrest — and has built a statewide prototype based on its success. Donovan says there are some fundamental differences between his program and the traditional criminal



justice system. RICC works. A recent independent study showed that its graduates were eight times less likely to reoffend than those who avoided treatment.

"It's looking at the criminal acts as a result of a disease. We're trying to treat the disease," said Donovan. "You want change in a system that doesn't like to change, you have to push the envelope a little bit. How do you get people on board? You take a risk and let the numbers speak for themselves."

But even Donovan acknowledged that implementing rapid-intervention

programs in other counties could prove to be difficult. Located in the state's most populous county, its operation benefits from easy access to treatment and other services, job opportunities, and public transportation — all of which are harder to come by in more rural settings.

"What I think the public won't understand is how somebody can go up all an ATM, be caught by the police and not have traditional consequences," Lamoille County State Attorney Jon Page said of his constituents in central Vermont, where he just launched a RICC. "How

can people get nothing for doing something illegal?" he asked, then answered his own question. "What we're trying to do is break the cycle. We can do the same thing that's not working, or we can do something different."

Prosecutors, police, defense attorneys and treatment providers generally agree that courts spend too little time each dealing with defendants who commit crimes after years while in the grip of substance abuse problems. In recognition of this pattern, the rapid-intervention program primarily accepts repeat offenders who have been arrested for non-violent crimes and have an underlying addiction. If they successfully complete a 90-day treatment plan of counseling, drug treatment and life skills training, they can walk away case closed. If they fail, they face the original charge.

"The key is not to burden them with the court case," said Ernest Melchior, a retired Burlington police officer who manages RICC, always saying, "Forget about the court case. Get healthy."

But not everyone gets accepted into the program. The centerpiece of RICC is the risk-assessment process offical use to determine if someone is a good candidate. Developed by university researchers in Ohio, it probes a potential participant's family support, living situation, substance abuse history, biomedical behavioral patterns.

RICC has handled 1,231 cases since launching in September 2010 and currently has 98. While the group does not keep track of the percentage of people who are rejected, last week four people were deemed unsuitable, Donovan said, because of issues that arose during screening.

The success rate? The Vermont Agency for Justice Research estimated 654 people who entered Chittenden County's rapid-intervention program between September 2010 and December 2012. Only 7.4 percent of those who completed it were convicted of a new crime after leaving the program. Of those who didn't make it through, 25 percent went on to reoffend.

"This study has shown that the RICC is a potentially off-the-shelf program in reducing recidivism among participating

LAW ENFORCEMENT

offenders and warrants further research," VCLR concluded in February 2013.

Brian Koenigfeld, director of the state's attorney's association, said that prosecutors in every other county in Vermont are mulling ways to create their own programs. Both Page and Addison County State's Attorney David Fenster are following Donovens lead, but with some significant twists to make their approaches more rural-Vermont-friendly. For example, most of the treatment services in Lamoille County are based in Moretown, but Page expects most participants will come from the "homesteads" and won't have driver's licenses or cars.

"That is a hard approach. Change can be difficult. There are always risks involved and there are people who look at these programs skeptically," said Fenster, who launched an Addison County rapid-intervention program in Moretown.

Fenster may be referring to the fact that state's attorneys in Vermont are independently elected, which gives them autonomy but also makes them vulnerable to political pressures. There's nothing worse for ours than 'there's an addict doing something horrible while enjoying an alternative to incarceration.'

"When I sit up late at night thinking about this, I get nervous because it takes one person to screw up, and it's on me," said Donovon.

One way to minimize the risk, Donovens program is considered "pre-charge," defendants are diverted before they ever appear in court. However, a state's attorney could choose a "post-charge" arrangement similar to the more flexible court diversion and intensive justice programs. Under that model, participants are formally charged with a crime but offered the chance to complete treatment in exchange for a charge that can be reduced or dropped altogether.

That approach, which Koenigfeld and Franklin County are considering, gives prosecutors the power to threaten more

incarceration if an offender fails. It also leaves defendants with a criminal record.

The downside? It may move too slowly.

For all but the most serious crimes, defendants are cited to appear in court four to six weeks after they've been arrested. As Shandor noted, experts say the most opportune time to convince addicts to get help is when their worlds have been turned upside down by an arrest. A month or more later, the defendant may not be as eager to accept a treatment-based deal.

After his arrest in August, the law student interviewed at Donovens office didn't think he'd be allowed to return to school in Virginia. He believed his career was over. He jumped at the offer to join RCCG, avoid a criminal record and get back to school. He has been clean since his arrest.

"I thought, Well, that's it," he said. "My therapist was like, 'You're so lucky you didn't get popped in Virginia.'

"The pre-charge price is absolutely based on the philosophy of the prosecutor," said Robert Said, the Shandor administration's point person in promoting alternative court programs.

Fenster has designed a compromise between pre-charge and post-charge approaches. In his program the Addison County state's attorney holds off filing a criminal charge for 90 days, the time it takes a defendant to go through the program. If the treatment is successful, he or she appears in court and is allowed to plead guilty to a lesser charge that comes with no penalties. But it still goes on that person's criminal record.

"We wanted to lay it out and be more incremental about it," Fenster said.

Advocates say anything is better than the status quo. "Keep in mind, the traditional system is far more failure than success," Page said. "I don't know if we can do any worse. I don't know if there's anything harder to change, but it's worth a try."

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Raw Deal? Farmers Push Back Against Unpasteurized Milk Regulations

by KATHRYN FLAGE

Agriculture



Lisa Klemm with her Jersey cows

Dependent upon whom you ask, raw milk is either nature's elixir or a foodborne illness waiting to happen. "This is an incredibly emotional topic," says Andrea Stander, executive director of Rural Vermont, who says there's not much middle ground between the two points of view. "People who feel that raw milk is dangerous feel that it is incredibly dangerous."

Now, five years after Vermont passed its first regulations governing the sale of raw, unpasteurized milk, the two camps are set to do battle again, as farmers push for easing some of the rules governing raw milk production and sales in Vermont.

The Agency of Agriculture is ramping up its on-farm inspections for raw milk producers. Dan Sorenson, head of the agency's dairy section, says the rules have "been on the books long enough we do have to start enforcing them reluctantly."

Meanwhile, several raw milk producers are lobbing complaints at Sorenson's agency for fostering what Thetford dairy farmer Lindsay Harris called an "anti-small dairy culture" which is "unjust and aggressive."

"It is supposed to be promoting farming, protecting working landscapes, helping farmers, supporting agriculture in Vermont," Harris says of the Agency of Agriculture. "And when it comes to raw milk, they are doing everything they possibly can to put us out of business."

"We follow the laws as set forth by the legislature, and the legislature has made it very clear that raw milk sales are illegal," responds Diane Barthel, Vermont's deputy secretary of agriculture. "The Agency of Agriculture has no position for or against it."

Rural Vermont is taking the farmers' complaints to lawmakers, on

Wednesday, the farm advocacy group presents its annual raw milk report to the House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products. The testimony aims to bolster support for S.70 — a bill dealing with the delivery of raw milk at farmers markets, which made it out of the Senate ag committee last year. Rural Vermont would love the House to amend and pass the bill before May.

Rural Vermont is proposing, among other goals

- allowing the sale of raw milk at farmers markets
- revising the required animal health testing regimen for tuberculosis, brucellosis and rabies to be more "reasonable and affordable";

- changing the language of the current warning signs required on farms and milk bottles, which warn of disease and the possibility of "miscarriage or fetal death, or death of a newborn."

"Get rid of flat down death sign," plans farmer Lisa Klemm, who is facing sanctions from the agency for violating some of the current raw milk rules.

The Agency of Agriculture hasn't reacted yet to Rural Vermont's most recent demands. Says Sorenson: "I can't weigh in on what I haven't seen."

Up Against the Agency

Vermont's first raw milk regulations passed in 2008 — in part, ostensibly, to protect consumers from the potentially harmful pathogens eradicated by pasteurization. Before that, raw milk sales in Vermont were largely unregulated. According to Stander, "It wasn't illegal, but it wasn't codified in any way in statute."

Formal inspection from the Agency of Agriculture started in earnest a year ago. Prior to that, regulators had focused on providing "technical assistance" to farmers to come into compliance with

the regulations, which Scranton cites as evidence of the agency's willingness to work with raw milk producers.

Since gaining up for inspection, the agency has issued notices of violation to three farmers — in Chester, Charlotte and Londonderry — for failing to abide by the current raw milk regulations. All three were cited for not having performed or passed the results of required tuberculosis, brucellosis and miles tests. Additionally, the Charlotte farm was cited for failing to post a warning sign on the farm about raw milk's dangers, the Chester farmer was cited for improper bottle labeling.

State veterinarian Kristen Haas says that many more Vermont farmers have failed inspections for raw milk production, but the agency gives them time to come into compliance before issuing a formal notice.

The latest notice of violation went out on October 31 to farmer-proprietor Kristen of Jersey Girl Dairy, in Chester. Last week the petite, 46-year-old cow old took her cows before the Agency of Agriculture.

Kraus showed up for her hearing in the stately brick building across the street from the statehouse dressed in a Carhartt jacket and a fluffy last-owner, her graying hair piled in a messy bun atop her head. She and her lawyer, then Richardson, sat in at a conference table across from Haas, Scranton, an agency attorney and the inspector who visited Kraus's farm, Bothfield — serving that day as the *ex officio* of hearing officer — took a seat at the head of the table.

Kraus and her lawyer weren't disputing that she failed to affix a warning label to her bottles. Calling it a "death sentence," she argued later that it's more kindly worded than warning labels on cigarettes or alcohol.

At issue were the state's animal health

testing standards, which Kraus and her lawyer argued are overly rigorous. Specifically, they object to procedures around *Brucellosis*, a bacterial disease that can be transmitted to humans — but neither of which has been seen in Vermont for decades. After failing the initial inspection, Kraus tested her cows for TB — and the Jersey Girl cows all tested negative. (She and Richardson argue that Vermont's yearly TB test is outdated and pose to New Hampshire, where rules require a test only every three years.) Kraus says she vaccinates every calf born on her farm against brucellosis. That, plus several brucellosis tests of her milk, should be enough to meet the state's health standards, Kraus says.

State ag regulators disagree and want each of Kraus's animals to get a blood test — a requirement for all raw milk producers in the state but not their environmental dairy counterparts. If Kraus complies, she'll have a hefty veterinary bill. If she doesn't, she could lose her right to sell raw milk and face fines up to \$500. Either way, she's out cash, revenue and attorney fees.

"I'm trying to do a good thing," Kraus told the officials when it was her time to testify last Tuesday. She described the lengths to which she goes to care for her "cloud" herd of 35 milers. The only animals to enter the herd are born on her farm, further limiting the possibility of disease.

DON'T BUY RAW MILK AND DON'T DRINK IT.

ERICA BEIRL
VERMONT HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Barbara Kraus, the agency's lawyer, was quick to point out that Kraus is breaking rules that are clearly outlined, both by the Agency of Agriculture and Vermont statute.

"There's plenty of case law in Vermont that indicates the way to challenge a law is not to break it," said Kraus as the hearing wrapped up.

The case is still ongoing, and agency officials said they couldn't comment on Kraus's situation. Bothfield gave both sides 14 days to submit legal briefs, after which she'll rule on Kraus's case.

In an interview after the hearing, Kraus continued her story. A New Jersey transplant who originally planned to be a large-animal veterinarian, she's earned a certification from a Virginia-based nonprofit, Animal Welfare Approved, for "livestock and dairy products that come from farm animals raised to the highest animal welfare and environmental standards." Testing at Cornell showed her milk to be free of harmful bacteria. She said she doesn't understand why state ag officials are giving her and other raw milk producers such a hard time.

"Our good, responsible farmers deserve more than this," she said. Slapping on labels that warn of "dead" death and sticking her cows with blood-testing needles doesn't sit right with Kraus. She works too hard, she says, to know how to "handle" regulations.

"No one's going to force me to do anything to my cows that I don't want to do to them," says Kraus. "That's my deal with them."

Kraus has been milking cows on her Chester farm — estimated by locals of colorful Jersey cows by local painter Jessie Townsend — since 1999. When they're not in the parlor, the girls are out on fresh pasture or noshing freely around the open barn.

Kraus has a small processing plant, from which she sells raw and pasteurized milk to cheese makers, restaurants and individual consumers. Customers willing to trek to the farm pay \$10 per gallon for the raw stuff — \$3 more than the statewide average. She is not allowed to sell more than 12.5 gallons a day according to state statute, but Kraus says she could do a lot more business. Being so, she argues, would help her afford to comply with all the raw-milk regulations, she says it's hard to make enough money otherwise.

Customers rave about Kraus's milk and her farm, an fixture on her behalf, customers explained agency officials to nature Kraus's ability to sell raw milk.

"As an educated consumer of local, organic food, I trust my ability to discern what foods and beverages belong on my table," wrote Anna Hawkins, a Granville resident and six-year customer.

A Difference of Opinion

The Vermont Department of Health recommends against consuming raw milk — as do both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Last month the American Academy of Pediatrics advocated for an all-out ban on raw milk sales, citing health risks that they say are especially grave for pregnant women, infants, infants and young children.

Milk sold in Vermont grocery stores has been tested to a specific temperature. That pasteurization process is intended to kill most of the possible pathogens in milk, it both protects against disease and slows spoilage caused by microbial growth.

Raw milk, on the other hand, is completely unpasteurized. Consumers rely on farmers to practice good sanitation in order to keep pathogens out of milk in the first place.



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Parents of Mentally Ill Burlington Man Saw Shooting—but Don't Blame Cops

Records obtained from the Vermont Attorney General's Office by *localmatters* of the most tragic aspects of the November 6 death of a mentally ill man in Burlington. Wayne Brunette's parents say police failed to shoot their 48-year-old son for refusing to drop a gun.

After approaching police to their home, Ruthie and Lawrence Brunette were the only two residents to witness the incident, which lasted approximately two minutes.

Their statements to investigators appear to have been right on the button in the decision to clear Burlington Police officer Benji Novari and Ethan Thibault of criminal wrongdoing.

"They both started shooting, and I don't know how many times they hit him, he went down," Lawrence Brunette told investigators, according to the documents obtained by *localmatters*. Wayne Brunette said he had already lost his power to deal with his son, who had started chopping down a tree in their front yard earlier that day and refused to calm down. "When he gets to that state, the only thing you can do is call the police."

"I don't blame the police," he said. "Something's wrong in here."

In separate interviews with investigators, his wife agreed. Asked whether she thought her son would have hit an off-duty cop with the shovel, Ruthie Brunette said, "Yes." She had repeatedly heard the officers tell her son to drop the shovel. "To me, he went towards them, as they were saying that, you know, and he didn't put the shovel down."

—MARK GLAVIS

Burlington Council Sends Sweeping Waterfront Proposal to Voters

The Burlington City Council gave its blessing Monday night to a multi-million-dollar plan for redeveloping Burlington's downtown waterfront. The approval clears the path for the proposal to go before voters in Town Meeting Day.

The redevelopment plan bundles six projects into one and would rely on \$7.1 million in tax-increment financing, along with other public and private funding sources. At its core is a \$26 million proposal to convert the Morris Plaza into a performance space, cooling restaurant, "micro brewery" and "maker space."

The city launched a public competition for proposals last January. Mayor Miro Weinberger selected the final six teams two weeks ago and tasked each with coming up with the Morris proposal.

That plan will be the greatest source of contention among mostly education city owners members Monday. If residents approve the redevelopment package, they'll also be sequencing in a single alternative, should the Morris renovation not pass voter demolition.

The only two councilors who voted against the plan — Rachel Stiegel and Vicki Kerasi, both Progressives representing Ward 3 — said that they liked the Morris Plaza proposal but couldn't stomach the proposed demolition. (Two other councilors recused themselves, citing a conflict of interest.) "It's really hard to have two questions voted together as one question," Stiegel said. "That we have to say yes to both is problematic to me."

Now Stiegel, P-Ward 3, contended that the "all-or-nothing" approach will rally voters around the project, improving



Burlington City Council endorsed a waterfront redevelopment plan

its chances of success. Stiegel solicited responses from the Morris Plaza project leaders — Charlie Tipper, a developer, and University of Vermont seniors Brook Crockenberg and Ted Cooke — that their plan was failsafe.

He didn't get it. "Our audience only goes to 50%," Tipper told him.

Weinberger allocated the largest share of TIF money to the project — \$4.2 million on top of \$2.2 million that had been previously allocated to the plaza — but the team still needs to raise about \$20 million on its own.

"I can't promise you we are going to succeed. I can promise you we are going to give it hell like nobody's business," Tipper told the council.

—JULIA FRESE

Fired Planning Chief Considering Challenge to Montpelier Mayor

Two months after her firing at Montpelier's planning and community development director, Gwendolyn Hollis says she's seriously considering running for mayor of Vermont's capital city.

"My motivation for running is to continue to give citizens a voice in their community and to make sure their voice is not forgotten," says Hollis, who is collecting signatures to put her name on the ballot and is "tentatively" planning to announce her bid on February 5 — though she says she may still reconsider.

Hollis would face off against Mayor John Miller, with whom she publicly tangled throughout the fall. After she was put on paid leave in November, Hollis accused the mayor of orchestrating an

ouster because of her outspoken advocacy for public banking. Miller is a contract lobbyist whose clients include Wells Fargo and Bank of America.

Hollis disputed the allegations, saying, "I had nothing to do with it." City Manager Bill Frazee wrote in a letter to Hollis at the time that her dismissal was the result of "involvement, dishonesty and poor relations with colleagues and elected officials."



Gwendolyn Hollis

Hollis, who was first elected to the part-time post in March 2012, announced his plan to run for reelection two weeks ago. He says he welcomes a challenge, but Hollis might just take the heat easier.

"I would be a challenging position for him to be in, because of the terms of her departure," Hollis says. "My hope is that we'll run a campaign, though, that would be based on issues that would be important to Montpelier and not personal issues like her past personal issues or were."

Hollis is appealing her firing in Washington County civil court. A trial

if her candidacy is simply a reaction to her failing health, he says. "Well, if I was still working for the city, I wouldn't be running for mayor. But I'm really deeply committed to the work I've done for the city. And I want to see it carried out."

—PAUL HEINTZ

Shoreland Protection Rules Advance in Statehouse

After striking some compromises between environmentalists and property rights advocates, the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee unanimously approved legislation on Friday that would tighten the rules governing shoreland development in Vermont. The bill is scheduled to come before the full Senate next week.



Courtesy tribute at Sunapee Lake

Big picture? The proposed rules are designed to improve water quality by limiting clearing and development along Vermont's lakes and ponds, keeping shore loads more intact would prevent runoff and maintain critical habitat at the water's edge. According to the Agency of Natural Resources, Vermont is the only northeastern state without a statewide shoreland protection rule on the books.

The bill may be about to change. The proposed bill — H.836 — would require permits for certain kinds of development within 250 feet of lake and pond shorelines, for bodies of water greater than 10 acres in size. Among other provisions, the legislation would require cleared areas or impervious surfaces to be located at least 100 feet from the water's edge.

—KATHRYN FLAGG

prevent erosion clearing and maintain "vegetative cover" along the shoreline, intended to prevent erosion and filter runoff.

There are exceptions built in, including: Projects under a certain size won't need permits, and towns can take on the permitting process themselves if they design a system "functionally" similar to the state regs, landowners would be able to develop a small path to the water's edge, and would be able to clear a small area of land within the buffer zone — for instance, for a shed, garage or fire pit. Development of agricultural land does not require a permit within the buffer zone, so long as it's farmed in best practices as outlined by the Agency of Agriculture.

Round complicated? That's intentional. Ben Dene Stelling (R-Chittenden), says lawmakers explicitly wanted regulation written into the proposed legislation, rather than letting

ANR to write the rules after the fact, but Stelling says she's already heard from people who are trying to dissect the complicated, 30-page legislation.

The bill heads next to the Senate Finance Committee — its final stop en route to the full Senate.

Environmental advocates are cautiously optimistic the bill will pass — but they're not happy about its start date of July 1. They worry some Vermonters will proactively clear their land and earn "grandfather" status before the regulation takes effect.

One thing's for sure: "The more everybody knows what the right thing is, it becomes more obvious who isn't doing it."

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Raw Deal?

Erica Bert, an infectious disease epidemiologist with the Vermont Health Department, says that raw milk was implicated in three 2010 Vermont outbreaks of campylobacteriosis — a gastrointestinal disease caused by bacteria, similar in nature to E. coli, salmonella or listeria infections. One hit a school field trip, affecting about 15 children. There were four confirmed, and another six probable, cases associated with a bed and breakfast. Finally, six visitors at a work camp got sick after drinking raw milk. Bert says no one was sick enough to be hospitalized, though a few patients did seek treatment.

Bert says that most cases of campylobacteriosis aren't associated with raw milk; they're what the department calls "sporadic" cases — of which the state sees, on average, 155 per year. Bert says that between 8 and 15 percent of campylobacteriosis patients report exposure to raw milk or unpasteurized dairy products. That's no small task, she says, but it's still a worrying figure for health officials.

Bert is wavering. "Don't buy raw milk and don't drink it! There's no meaningful difference between nutritional values of raw and pasteurized milk," she said, and the raw just isn't worth it.

"That's total bullshit," says Harris, the raw milk farmer in Randolph.

She and her husband, Dean Ream, started Family Cow Farmstand in Randolph as operators of the state's largest raw milk dairy; they provided milk for hundreds of Burlington-area families before selling the business last fall. They'd been leaving the farm — from Agency of Agriculture Secretary Greta Raus, no less — and wanted to buy their own.

The family ended up in Randolph, but because "we wanted to live well in the middle of nowhere," Harris says, they had to give up on raw milk sales. They're still milking cows, but they intend to produce an artisan, cultured — and pasteurized — Harris. Harris says building a business solely around raw milk only works in a major population center with lots of customers, like Burlington, and as they needed to focus on a product they could sell through retail outlets.

"That was the biggest compromise," says Harris. Resorting to pasteurization, for her, meant "leaving go of selling the best possible food we could." Pasteurizing milk, Harris says, leads to nutrient breakdown and the loss of enzymes and probiotics, including



Photo: Kathryn Harris makes raw milk

the loss of approximately 10 percent of thiamine and vitamin B12 and about 20 percent of vitamin C, according to one study. She points to a European report that found a direct link between exposure to raw milk and decreased likelihood of allergies.

As for food safety? Harris has dug deep into CDC statistics on foodborne illnesses and raw milk consumption rates.

"It's a perishable food, and raw it can make you sick, but it's not outside the norms of foodborne illness in any way," says Harris.

Between 1998 and 2010, the CDC got reports of 148 outbreaks it attributes to the consumption of raw milk or unpasteurized dairy products. Those resulted in 2,381 illnesses, 284 hospitalizations and two deaths.

But what about massive outbreaks of contaminated spinach, cantaloupe or ground beef? Between 1998 and 2008, according to the CDC, produce was responsible for 46 percent of documented foodborne illnesses. Dairy products, both raw and pasteurized, came in at 20 percent.

"It just doesn't seem fair to put raw

milk in this whole other category when the data shows that it doesn't belong there," says Harris.

Harris's Family Cow Farmstand was the first "raw milk" raw milk seller in the state, a designation that permits it to sell up to 90 gallons a day and deliver milk directly to customers while meeting stricter regulations, including monthly quality testing.

The farm met all the raw milk standards, but Harris and she was still deeply frustrated by the system. The rules required them to distribute their product with "warning" labels that say, "This is going to kill your kid." And they were limited in how much they could sell each day.

"It's double jeopardy," says Harris. "We can show that we have the quality ready going, but you still restrict us."

Harris understands the origin of the stigma. In the late 19th century, dairy farms were moving into industrial centers to provide milk for increasing numbers of city dwellers. But they were filthy places, and the milk was very dangerous to drink.

Pasteurization changed all that — but Harris believes that many regulations

don't understand how far farming has come since.

"They are not talking into account that now we know how to clean up farms," she says. Farmers today know how to sanitize equipment, keep cows healthy and vaccinate against disease. "We can farm and we can produce milk in a way that makes it extremely safe without having to pasteurize it."

Katrine, the Chester farmer, has considered moving to nearby New Hampshire, where state regulations allow farmers to peddle raw milk at markets — with labels that simply read, "Raw milk is not pasteurized." Pasteurization, dairytime.org claims, might be harmful to human health.

But she'd much rather stay where she is — and Vermont's Stender thinks that's a real possibility.

Ultimately, Stender says, it's a consumer issue. "That is at the core of freedom for individual adults to make their own choices about what they want to eat." ☐

Contact kathryn@seventyone.com

In a Shared Exhibit, a 'Parade' of Handmade Figures Addresses Sharing the Earth

By Amy E. Lly

ART



Inside the *Living Earth Parade* gallery at the University of Vermont is an arresting sight. Paired beige and brown figures, averaging 6 feet tall, appear to march and dance their way toward the entry. Some are recognizably human or animal; others look mythological, with three hands or legs.

The figures are not really moving, of course, but each pair is frozen in a moment of interaction or movement. All 40 or so are arranged on three rectangular pedestals that diminish as height as they approach the door.

Above them, three more figures — or at least their heads — pop directly from the dark wall, suggesting that the scene stretches beyond the confines of this small, windowless gallery. If there were a soundtrack to the show, one imagines a cophenetic dirge — something like the sound of wolf bats itself.

The artists responsible for this busy procession, *most via email* of Cabot and Allston of Grand Isle, call it "Parade: A Collaborative Installation." Each artist's

contribution she has the own title. Van Fleet's collection of dark, archaefigurine-like human and animal shapes, made from driftwood, wood furniture which and other found objects from the natural and human worlds, is called "This Section." Moss calls her expressively gestural, nonchromatic, off-white creatures, made from handmade sheet paper wrapped around wire frames, "Racing Through."

Parades are clearly part of Vermont's living fabric — think of *most via email* Warren's 500-foot-long display of human figures, the pageants devised by *most via email* Paul Under in Glover, and Warren's eclectic Fourth of July parade.

Van Fleet and Moss' parade, however, doesn't limit itself to human activity, or even to human time. "Parade" considers planetary time, Earth's existence over eons — a long view that makes the installation fundamentally about the environment.

"The whole history of the planet is an unequal relationship," declares Moss in a phone call. "Everyone who ever

lived, their DNA is still there. To me, they're alienated. They're not natural or organic or people; they're everything at once."

Hence, for instance, her oblique sculpture with the posture of the Winged Victory of Samothrace, the head of a lambkin sheep and an anchoring bird leg.

Moss doesn't plan out how her figures will look. Instead, she "rip[s] them happen" out of "bits and pieces of dreams and mythological bases," she says. When they emerge, they usually come with a message: "They look at me and say, 'Hey, I've been here. Be kind to the planet and to animals.'

At the spring last Thursday, Moss read from a statement in which she called that relationship between humans and other creatures not just "unequal" but "moral." "Animals care what they need is survival — we humans care as much as we can." Drawing the planet, we forget that Earth *exists* as "

Some of Van Fleet's figures express that uneasiness more overtly. "Our food is

gone someone ate it," reads a message written in caps on a small blackboard screwed to one figure's rectangular body. "We live on the earth you starve," reads another. Each of those figures' pairs of "arms" are formed by a discarded fork and spoon.

"A huge amount of space on the planet is now given over to growing food for humans," explains Van Fleet, and mentions an article she recently read in a favorite publication, *New Scientist*, about how China is buying up land in Africa to grow food for its own people.

But most of Van Fleet's sculptures don't have messages inscribed on them. For her, they are vessels of history, as well as a means "a dialogue" between the human and nonhuman, as she puts it. She creates her figures, like most of her art, from found or recycled objects. "Things kind of jump into my head," she says.

Rather than altering their shapes, Van Fleet leaves the fragments' "histories intact" and manipulates the attitude, motion or emotion they already express.

Short Takes on Film: Doc *THE r APY*



Ben Fleit sawing a tree trunk

TO ME, THEY'RE ALL CONFUSED:
They're no T-animals
or plants. To or people;
They're every thing
at once.

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Two of her stylized human figures, which appear to be chatting, have driftwood heads — one elephant-like, the other robo-like — that are as expressive as those wearing faces made by virtue of how they're attached. Two ingenious beetles and insects in the show are made from naturally round stones with objects such as metal tongs for pincers.

The beetles are placed as if emerging from a shadow cast by a pedestal — an instance of the humor Van Fleet uses to balance her accented didacticism. Playfulness has been a key to her work at least since her delightful stop-motion video "March of the Tin Pots" (2002, viewable on YouTube) — one of several parades Van Fleet has created over her career.

The parades in this "Parade" create mini-narratives that amuse as well as trouble and confound; in one, Van Fleet's figure holds out a childlike hand, and Mass' appears positioned to catch it. It's no surprise that the two have collaborated before. They first got to know

each other's work in Japan in 2009 as two of four Vermont artists showing in an exhibition related to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya.

Having seen each other's figures in separate shows at the 2009 Vermont Climate Change Exhibit in Montpelier last summer and elsewhere, the artists searched for months for a way to share the works together. The Living Learning Gallery, Mass says, allowed them the latitude to experiment on site.

Seeing these two artists visually different but ideologically aligned work together is rewarding — but the window of opportunity is brief: "Parade" ends this week. Somewhere, that sound fitting for an exhibit shout "passing through," as Van Fleet puts it. "Species" have come and gone; species have gone. Change is the constant. **CD**

INFO

"Parade: A Collaboration of Sculpture and Installation" sculptures by Bill Mass and Jason Van Fleet through Friday, February 24 at the Living Learning Gallery, University of Vermont in Burlington. www.educentralgallery.com

Climate change is no longer just a consequence of the Industrial Revolution. It is a crisis against humanity," says one of the talking heads featured in a new documentary called *The Weather* (Screen: Climate Change, Capitalism and Community).

This activist spirit informs the 80-minute film from directors Anne Marieke and Wim van der Heijden and New York-based John Anker. It will premiere this Thursday at Randolph College, number 10 in the *Screen* series, as part of an ongoing event series devoted to the topic of building a local economy.

The doc features footage of devastated landscapes and determined activists from around the world. Many of the experts interviewed target the destructive linkages between Western consumer culture and global warming: they include Vermonters such as *Mountain Biker* (see sidebar) and *Whole Systems Design* and whole congnitive expert *Patagonia*.

Macaulay will attend the premiere to follow by a discussion led by invited guests of the nearby North University Chapel Society. *Screenings & Discussion* will close the program with song.

The film program is the sixth in a series called "Why Build a Local Economy? Community Engagement, Sustainability" organized by building a Local Economy in partnership with the Randolph Area Community Development Corporation.

The mission to survive comes with glowing plaudits from academics such as Tom F. Driver, a professor

emeritus at Union Theological Seminary, who writes that "better than any other film I know it makes clear that our profit-oriented growth economy has caused the climate catastrophe and cannot itself rescue us from disaster."

Sounds pretty bleak, but series organizer *Screen* says the doc has a "hopeful" side. In a press release he recommends that locals come prepared to challenge yourself about where and how you are involved in your life ... and turn it into engagement."

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington has embarked on its own monthly series of socially conscious screenings. The selected docs highlight marginalized groups in Vermont today, including people struggling with hunger [*A Place at the Table*], depression [*Depression: Mind at the End of the Shadow*], and sports addiction [*Local* director *Baseball's a Town* (*The Hungry Heart*)]. Each comes with a discussion led by a local expert.

Macaulay **607-869-1569**

INFO

Premiere of *The Weather* (Screen: Climate Change, Capitalism and Community) Thursday, January 20, 8:30 p.m., at Chamber Center for the Arts in Randolph. General admission \$10, students \$5. *Screenings & Discussion* led by Tom F. Driver through Friday, February 24, 7 p.m. **Screen** www.screenvt.org

A Cartoon School Fellow Talks About Her Graphic Memoir, Life in White River Junction and Psychics

By Brian Chilko WAREN

as a kid, cartoonist **Georges** was always told her father had died of colon cancer. It was a lie she believed right up until her 23rd birthday, when she was given a suitcase with a key as a birthday gift by her godmother.

In Georges' sparse, and white rendering of the scene, which opens her award-winning 2003 graphic memoir *Calling Dr. Lauro*, that psychic informs Georges that her father is actually alive. The revelation, later confirmed by Georges' sister, catalyzed a five-year period of truth seeking for the now-adolescent, who is currently living and working in White River Junction as the 2013-2014 fellow at the *Cartoon School*.

"I tried to tell as many stories as I could, as honestly as I could, so that people could identify with the experience," says Georges, now 33, of the scenes she drew up from that period and crafted into the book-length memoir.

Like *Steve N. Sebold's* 2006 graphic memoir *Fair Game*, Georges' book is raking in positive reviews across the board. And it's earned her fans in high places. MSNBC's Rachel Maddow, for one, says in a book blurb that *Calling Dr. Lauro* is "an engrossing, lovely, smart and ultimately poignant trip through a luminous emotional bottleneck in family life."

At the time of her encounter with the psychic, Georges was living in Portland, Ore. She was dating women but closeted



with her Midwestern family, and working as a karaoke jockey at a dive bar. The book flashes back to revealing moments from her younger years: her family's moves, encounters with non-straight relatives, absences from school and chronic constipation (perhaps triggered subconsciously by the trauma of

the "colon cancer" lie, the book hints). It's a coming-of-age story that reaches on themes of love, beauty and identity far beyond the search for the truth about her father. Georges' interactions with her pals, her romantic partners and her willful, severe, totally homophobic mother form the backbone of the story.

She did, making comics about her life before Georges' creative and therapeutic outlet of choice since early childhood. "I started making autobiographical zines and stories when I was 12 years old in Ramona," she says. "I was doing comics about myself and my dog and the things that I did during the day."

Georges remembers "getting in trouble for running out of paper and drawing on the walls," occasionally creating inappropriate or risqué material such as "an illus-

I tried to tell as many stories as I could, as honestly as I could, so that people could identify with the experience.

—NICK LE BEEF SEBES

Parts of *Calling Dr. Lauro* were first published in Georges' comic *Drawn* (Summer 2000), including the trailer anecdote, in which Georges calls the magazine's conservative talk-show host for advice about calling her mother out over the lie of her father's death. Georges presented the *Dr. Lauro* comic while touring with the lesbian-feminist spoken word collective Brooklyn Spill in 2007. After a reading in Brooklyn, an agent approached her, asking if Georges had enough personal material to make a book-length story.

Parts of *Calling Dr. Lauro* were first published in Georges' comic *Drawn* (Summer 2000), including the trailer anecdote, in which Georges calls the magazine's conservative talk-show host for advice about calling her mother out over the lie of her father's death. Georges presented the *Dr. Lauro* comic while touring with the lesbian-feminist spoken word collective Brooklyn Spill in 2007. After a reading in Brooklyn, an agent approached her, asking if Georges had enough personal material to make a book-length story.

"I was obsessed with plots that were personal and that dealt with trauma and family relations," Georges adds. "I took for granted that I was writing on a giant story that one day I could tell."

Years later, when creating *Calling Dr. Lauro*, she stayed faithful to that impulse.



LIT NEW S: GOING GEEK

Author readings in Vermont tend to spotlight literary fiction, the kind of realistic, contemporary work that appears in journals like *Guernica* and *Paris Review*, as well as science fiction and fantasy. But guide to guide out stories about time travel and postapocalyptic living can be just as artfully bold as tales of time, amazons and drowns. These days those once-disrespected genres run the gamut from pulpy space operas to the literary sophistication of China Mieville or Margaret Atwood.

With its *Science of the Arts* series, local literary bookshop *Word* will

establishing opportunities for serious fans of science fiction, fantasy and horror to meet and well, geek out. This Saturday brings gM3's third reading in the space of a few months. *Vermonter Science Fiction* to *Word* this Sunday.

Bookends N.

The six authors showcased run the gamut: wordvt.com of the *Vermonter Science Fiction* Center is a frequent contributor to prominent genre mags such as *Albion's Science Fiction & Fantasy Center* or *Vermont*, who recently returned to the area. He has a grit time-travel litology called *So Close* to you, published by *Hyperion* (the third book will

appear in July). Local radio DJ www.vt101.com of the Point has self-published a slew of space adventures, graphic novels and postcards — www.vt101.com and www.vt101.com — both held MFA from the *University of Maine*. *Guillermo* (a.k.a. Software engineer www.vt101.com) writes fiction that tends to involve lost artifacts and tiny subversives.

Many "tiny subversives" are sure to happen at a reading held on Thursday by *Guillermo* — www.vt101.com vs. The writing center will bring six poets to Williston's *Word*, including www.vt101.com, editor of *Orion*.

ANONYMOUS

CONTEMPORARY TIBETAN ART

"I included a lot of embarrassing things [and] things I wasn't proud of," Georges says. "I wanted to have some kind of intimacy with readers that way, so I hope that intimacy and vulnerability helps real people and makes them have stakes in the characters."

The cartoonist has been a Vermont resident since receiving the prestigious annual fellowship at the cartoon school. As a fellow, she works with students on individual projects and has a studio and an intern to help with her own, like the first round of CCS from Portland cartoonist friends who had themselves visited, taught or held fellowships at the school and spoken highly of the experience.

"From what I heard — and this has proven true — it's a kind of cartooning energy and creativity," Georges says. "Vermont is a great place to haul ass down, get snowed in and get some serious writing done."

So far, she's completed a 2006 annual calendar, has "out some of the horses," is about to launch a community "yank avocados" (aka "Blancmange") class, and is working on a second book proposal. The new book, too, will begin with a psychic, Georges reveals — that time, an animal whisperer. ☐

INFO

Coming for Laura: A Simple Memory by Nicole Georges, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2006, paper, \$16.95. www.hmhbooks.com/contemporary.asp

Mountain Review and More
Hampshire journalist-turned-poet Andrew Morton, [BARE BRANCH FOUR](http://www.barebranch.com), www.zomp.com will provide music.

MARGOT HARRISON

INFO

Georges' Mountain State Presents
Vermont Science Fiction Saturday
February 3, 1 to 5 p.m., at Phoenix
Books during the *Fleming Fest* 448-2850
or [phoenixbooksvt.com](http://www.phoenixbooksvt.com)
Peregrine Publishing Series: *Therapap*
January 26, 7 p.m., at Antikitha in Burlington. Free. www.peregrinebooks.com



Dechen Jampa Lhamo, 1976. *Alma Lou*, 2002. Mineral pigments on canvas (29 x 25 in.). The Shelley and Donald Rubin Private Collection.

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SEVEN DAYS

Dear Cecil,

I came across your column on what zero means on the Fahrenheit scale. You blew it. You said that, unlike 32 or 212 degrees, zero degrees corresponded to nothing in nature — it was merely an arbitrarily assigned number. It isn't. It's the temperature at which seawater will freeze. Of course it's an approximation, because the freezing point of salt water varies based on salinity, but zero degrees is a rule of thumb. I'm not playing gotcha here — just battling misinformation wherever it rears its ugly head.

Richard Forte

Then let me assist you in your battle, Richard. You're wrong.

I assume you've got a lot of company. Wikipedia takes your side, as does at least one college physics textbook. But close examination makes it reasonably clear the seawater explanation derives from a misreading of the evidence.

In my 1899 column I explained that Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit, the father of the Fahrenheit scale, based his system of temperature measurement on earlier scales devised by Danish astronomer Ole Roemer. Roemer, I said, had set zero arbitrarily — his main consideration was that sea is colder than the temperature ever got in Denmark, because he didn't like using negative numbers in his weather logbook.

Roemer's scale had 7 1/2 as the freezing point of water and 22 1/2 as body temperature, in those days called "blood heat."

To get rid of the awkward fractions, Fahrenheit did some multiplication, eventually winding up with 32 as the freezing point and 96 as body temperature. (Roemer's point initially didn't figure in at all.)

I said that when Fahrenheit was set to demonstrate his system to London's Royal Society in 1724, he warmed it until it would look odd if zero on his scale was attributed to reality, and thus had to concoct a rationale. Here's what he wrote in the paper he presented:

"The division of the scale depends on three fixed points which can be determined in the following manner. The first is fixed in the uncalibrated part or the beginning of the scale, and is determined by a mixture of ice water and salt (common [ammonium chloride]), or even sea salt."

The "or even" part (the original Latin phrase is *et vel* when *salini* is omitted) is a giveaway

— the freezing point of seawater was an afterthought. Fahrenheit underscores this in his conclusion:

"If the thermometer is placed in [the water-ice-salts mixture (ammonium chloride)] mixture, the liquid descends as far as the degree that is marked with a zero. This experiment succeeds better in winter than in summer."

Thank you, Mr. Roemer. The method supposedly used to determine zero on Fahrenheit's scale doesn't always work. Who would be foolish enough to invent a temperature scale that wouldn't permit thermometers to be reliably calibrated? In contrast, the freezing point of fresh water, as mentioned in an ice/water mixture or ice/sea/water mixture, is constant for practical purposes, making it a dependable benchmark. It seems obvious the ammonia chloride/temperature procedure had been invented after the fact to provide a physical correlate

to a point originally chosen for other reasons.

But you aren't taking my word for it. In a letter Fahrenheit wrote to a patient on April 13, 1729, he says that when he visited Roemer in 1708, he found several thermometers being calibrated by standing in water and ice. Thus, that measurement was then based on body heat, and after [Roemer] had excised these two points from this all, half the distance found between them was added below the point of water and ice, and this whole distance was divided into 22 1/2 parts, beginning at the bottom with 0, arriving there at 7 1/2 for the point of water mixed with ice, and 22 1/2 for the point of blood heat."

There you have it. Fahrenheit, following Roemer, simply determined the distance between the marks for the freezing point of water and body heat on his glass thermometers (84 degrees, in the scale he would ultimately develop), measured off half that distance (42 degrees) below the freezing point and called that zero.

Recounting this story in a 1991 article, R.J. Stoken of the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory writes: "The zero on the scale

had no fundamental meaning, following the tradition of others who preceded him. Fahrenheit chose to define a zero below the colder temperature likely to be experienced by everyday use of his thermometers."

As I said.

To be fair, Fahrenheit wasn't the only early scientist to come up with quirky calibration procedures:

- Robert Boyle proposed that thermometers should be calibrated to the temperature of congealing animal oil.
- Josias Day suggested pegging thermometers to the freezing point of water and the melting point of butter.
- The Encyclopédie Britannica thought a useful temperature reference point was "water just hot enough to let wax, that when open, begins to congeal."

At least these benchmarks were practical. Try calibrating your thermometer using the standard proposed by 19th-century Danish astronomer Charles Plumbe Smith, who nominated a scale set to "the mean temperature of the King's Chamber at the center of the Great Pyramid of Giza."

Um, great idea, Charles. On the other hand: road trip?



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INFO

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WTF?

Walking up Marlin Avenue on a recent 35-degree morning, I noticed a parked car idling with no one in it. Presumably the owner didn't want to get in a cold car to drive to work. On St. Paul Street, another car was idling. This time the driver was inside, absorbed in texting. New Main St. I saw one of those bright-and-modulating signs ("Idling pollutes and is illegal"), erected in 2007. Next to it, a truck was idling while the driver made a delivery to a nearby restaurant.

WTF? If it's illegal to idle in Burlington, why are so many people doing it?

A Burlington ordinance passed in 1999 limited idling to five minutes, but only April through October; idling in colder months was given a pass. In its early years, the ordinance was never enforced. By 2007, with a growing concern that greenhouse gas emissions were contributing to climate change, Burlington's Progressive city administration under then-mayor Bob Kiss breathed new life into the idling ban.

At an April press conference that year, Kiss, along with police chief Tom Trebillop and other officials, called for an "idle-free Burlington." At the time, the fine for a violation was \$45. Trebillop said at the conference he hoped that, with increased citizen awareness, enforcement would be necessary.

In late 2009, the Public Works Commission substantially modified the ordinance. The idling limit was reduced to three minutes and the winter exemption was removed. The fine, however, was lowered to \$1. Exemptions were made for refrigerated trucks, vehicles running while being repaired, work vehicles requiring or installing equipment and situations involving "the health or safety of a driver or passenger."

The state has also taken action on idling. In 2008, after a campaign initiated by Richmond middle schoolers, the Vermont Reduced Fueling Tax Act (Act 46) was instituted, limiting idling to five minutes on school grounds. This year on May 1, Act 57 will take effect, prohibiting the "idling of motor vehicles" statewide. It specifies a five-minute limit and has a longer list of exemptions than does Burlington's ordinance.

Why is idling a big deal? Because it has a demonstrated negative impact on

Whatever happened to Burlington's ban on excessive car idling?

health, the environment and the economy. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention records Vermont's adult asthma rate — exacerbated by exhaust gases — as the highest in the country, with rates for children not far behind. Recently, the U.S. Department of Energy reported that unnecessary idling in the United States wastes six billion gallons of fuel annually and emits particulates (from diesel engines), nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide. A 2009 study from Vanderbilt University found that idling alone accounts for 1.6 percent of total U.S. CO2 emissions. "Much of this idling," the authors noted, "is unnecessary and is economically disadvantageous."

The study further stated that "a conservative decline in idling among the estimated 57 percent of Americans who hold inaccurate beliefs about [idling] would reduce CO2 emissions by roughly 8 million tons annually [and] eliminate the need for 90.3 million gallons of gasoline per year."

The researchers concluded optimistically, "Motor vehicle idling among individual private citizens is one behavior that may be amenable to large-scale policy intervention."

So have Burlington's "interventions" made any difference? Idling citations by the Burlington Police Department have been infrequent over the years; in 2010 Chief Michael Schirmer said that the idling ordinance is set "high on our radar." While city parking officers write 35,000 tickets in Burlington in 2013, according to BPD records, idling citations over the past seven years totaled 41, including only eight last year.

Parking enforcement manager John King tells Seven Days that his officers "don't see a lot of violations that meet the three-minute time span." Data that make the violations aren't happening or that the enforcers of the ordinance don't have the time — or the motivation — to "see" them? Bruce Keast, spokesperson for the police department, points out that often violation of the ordinance aren't clear cut. "We address many more violations than we issue tickets for," he says. "It all comes back to education."

Former mayor Kiss thinks that the ordinance has always served just "to reinforce common sense" about idling. Jennifer Green, the city's sustainability



coordinator, asserts that the ordinance is there primarily to "offer an educational opportunity," but admits, "we can do a lot more to use it."

Mary Sullivan, communications coordinator for the Burlington Electric Department, was a key advocate for the 2009 ordinance changes and a member of the committee that helped draft the city's new Climate Action Plan. She regrets the number of vehicles that she still sees idling around town. "Despite the signs, [people] seem unaware that they're illegal to idle in Burlington," she says.

Mayor Miro Weintraub agrees that the city could do more. "There are far more significant steps that can be taken to address — transportation related greenhouse gases in Burlington," he tells Seven Days. However, none of the steps he suggests (more electric vehicles, low parking for parking downtown) directly addresses the idling problem.

Councilor Rachel Stagg is a little more blunt. "Without meaningful action on climate change, all the other issues before us — even violent crime — will be

irrelevant," she says.

Burlington's climate plan indicates that cars, trucks and buses produce 51 percent of the city's greenhouse gas emissions. That's a 26 percent increase since 2007. Granted, there is no way of knowing how much of that can be attributed to idling. But observable evidence around the city — and the police department's own statistics on lack of enforcement — suggest that the message on those red signs isn't really getting across. Q

INFO

There will be a screening of *Idle Threat* from 6 p.m. on Tuesday February 13. It's at Perennial Presentation Center, Champlain College in Burlington. Get tickets via tinyurl.com/929393 or call its representatives from the *Idle Threat* and the City of Burlington. A discussion and Q&A follows the screening.

Want to know more about something? Send your burning question to JeffWarren@bystep.com.

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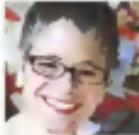
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Drug Crimes

It goes without saying that in describing his entire State of the State address to the "tragedy" of opiate addiction, Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin was changing the subject.

"The state of our state is strong and growing stronger," he said. Jobs are continuing to rise; house prices are up; unemployment is low. "Most people" he means "are hopeful and optimistic."

In fact, Vermont is in a maddeningly sorry state. Yes, jobs are coming back, but largely in low-wage sectors such as service and retail. Housing is unaffordable to many; as homelessness is rising. Unemployment is down because workers are giving up looking for jobs and dropping out of the labor force.

Opiates? You tell me.

It's understandable that the chief of state would like us to think about something else. But if you're going to sing attention from the sticky elephant in the room, you're going to choose your distraction carefully. You must win not just the minds but the hearts of the public. You must, in short, scare the bejeezus out of them.

Your plague of choice must be big and growing. A 7.9 percent increase in sales, a 30 percent rise in thefts—Shumlin ticked off the statistics.

To solve the puzzle of amateurish problems that almost no one has noticed, you should describe the scourge as clandestine—opiate addiction is "bubbling just below the surface."

Bubbles invisible, it must be stealthy and nefarious. "Addiction comes at people insidiously," the governor said. Before you know it, recreational drug



OPPIATE CRIMES. From left to right: Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin, anti-opiate activist The Angry Vermonter, and Katie Turner and Shirley Hamers (LPH)

taking "descends into an uncontrollable, unrelenting addiction—a lifetime ban," accusations to the death.

Incomprehensible, unusual, stronger than human will, the enemy must strike at the innocent and defenseless—"our children," "Vermont families"—and strike indiscriminately. At his speech, Shumlin showcased Diana MacLean, a recovering addict and prominent subject of *The Hungry Heart*, Vermont filmmaker Bass Clef's doc about the Allens practitioners Fred Dobson and the opiate-addicted kids he treats. Dobson is the handsomest son of a living firm family. The governor who mentioned Will Gates, a University of Vermont science major and sister, "born to opportunity" dead of

an overdose. Heroin—in a phrase that could have been plucked from Roger MacBride—"stole Will."

But the most important criterion for a politically profitable crisis is that culpability cannot reside anywhere but you or your policies.

Among home-free catastrophes, set and dismiss can't be beat. Terrorism and pedophilia can close seconds. But for reliable bipartisan panic production, you can always count on drugs.

Drugs are blower to the Native Americans, apolice to the upstanding soldier, a mind and physical contagion snagged into 800— from "Boston, New York, [and] Philadelphia," said Shumlin. Drugs are the Other. They are

not "our" fault—or, if you're the governor, not *my* fault.

Or so he'd like us to think. To begin with, as Seven Days reporter Mark Davis wrote recently, the galloping epidemic is hyperbole at best. The nearly eightfold increase in addicts showing up for help in getting clean is "attributable not just to a surge in demand—but also to an increased supply of treatment" in the state. In plain numbers, the doubling of heroin deaths in 2013—from nine to 17—is matched by an almost identical drop in prescription opiate fatalities, from 46 to 39. And all those breakthroughs and thefts, the critics add, costs to fund a fatf? Then, too, "we are steadily declining in Vermont since 2006," according to federal statistics.

As for dealing and possession, Max Solhafer of the Vermont Center for Justice Research told Davis that drug arrests reflect enforcement activity "aren't a measure of actual crime."

In fact, national and global data show that if there are now more prescription pillfathers on the street, they've simply replaced other drugs. Heroin gives way to cocaine, crack to meth. And over the long term, the percentage of addicts in a population remains steady, closely correlated with mental illness.

Opiate addiction is not a gerrymandered field. Pophy packed outside the barrier. According to a 2006 report from the University of New Hampshire's Caskey Institute, in virtually every category of illicit drugs, above among rural people ages 12 to 25 equals or exceeds that of their urban counterparts. Less educated and unemployed youth turn to her-

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substances use the most. And country kids drink more and start younger than kids in the city. Vermont ranks high on underage alcohol consumption.

Maybe the heroin syringe is not a common sight in the households of farmers and foresters. But Moon and Dad getting whacked on a case of beer every Friday night is an indigenous custom.

A kid who takes cocaine in the schoolyard is not destined for the shooting gallery, or an early grave. The influential work of New York City researcher Charles Wunsch in the 1960s discovered what he called "tuning out" — the common cessation of drug use between the ages of 20 and 30, set by death but by quitting. Subsequent research yields a complete picture of an opioid user's career. According to University of Glamorgan (Wales) criminologist Trevor Bennett, "It usually takes more than a year to become addicted and — even when addicted, the opioid user is frequently able to control his or her habit." Although it's not easy, people stop for various reasons — from the departure of the lover who supplied the drugs in an intolerable relationship with the constant, arduous, often-critical pursuit of the high.

Of course, if narcotics were de-criminalized, and the core population of congenital addicts substituted with substitute medicines, the profits would disappear and with them the costs and crime caused by a fuel.

"Recovery" — the word used to describe what the kids in *The Hungry Heart* are engaged in — implies a return to safety, to health, to home and people who care for you. But, says from Macho and a few others, the netting ends in the film started out with some of these, or lost them early and repeatedly. Child after child speaks of symptoms, pain and a sense of worthlessness. Drugs "made me feel like a human." "That hole got filled up." "It was the only thing that didn't hurt me." One young woman holds up a sign printed out for Holmes "Fool's Kids." She says, weeping, "I was never anybody's kid."

Given the circumstances, punifications, though not a healthy choice, are a natural choice.

The Hungry Heart is heartbreakingly accurate. But it drives home a bigger point: Addiction is a disease; it alters the brain and body. Drugs is a cruel, criminal punishment; counterproductive, and

treatment is desperately needed. As for prevention, the five Infect families in turnabout stress having a close eye on your kids and talking a lot about drugs.

The Holmes and the experts whose interviews are posted on the film's website express another, more damning message: That young people need more than medicine and counseling. They need education, housing, jobs, food and money.

In other words, addiction is a disease. But, as with tuberculosis or malaria, social factors make some people more susceptible and some more

vulnerable. Some social factors are critical to a cure. A massive, early 1970s study of returning Vietnam Army vets found that almost half the soldiers used opium or heroin while deployed; 20 percent was addicted. But a year after coming home, only 5 percent were still using. The vast majority quit without treatment or abstinence. What happened? They no longer needed to numb themselves. Now they had families, jobs and human love.

People need a reason to get clean. In the film, we see big, shiny and horrendous, arenas at the doctor's office: on a bike that's too small for him, he is traveling to卒ish on a bender of a childhood. "What's to make him keep trying?" asks Holmes, who keeps helping the boy to try.

Bob Beck, the RewardCenter's director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, tells O'Brien these teens' addiction is the community's failure.

Pd put it this way: Addiction is a political failure, an economic failure.

Addiction "comes at people," Shashaan said. Her watching *The Hungry Heart*, you can't help but feel that some people have been born on a forced circuit toward addiction since the day they left the cradle. What put them on that path may be DNA or mental illness, but what vigilantly feeds escape is income inequality coupled with social service cutbacks — a growing generational indifference to basic need, reflected in false classes of economic security.

The state of the state is failing. It is afflicted by growing epidemics — poverty, hunger, homelessness and joblessness. Opiate addiction is not the illness. It is a symptom. When children are dying of a preventable disease in a wealthy state in a wealthy nation, it's not just "the economy" at fault. The people elected to lead are to blame. Q



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Maria Lai's *Ben Meditation*

Other black-outlined clouds seem to float over the figure, so these exotic birds hover around her, and seem serenely colored fish swim by at the bottom of the expanse. There's a lot going on here, and the painting is descriptively pretty. But the focal point is Maria's white face mask – which helps us to grasp that these clouds are actually smog. The willow leaf reforms on that chest symbolizes the artist's concern with the destruction of the Tibetan landscape in the wake of China's rapid industrialization. Wengqai confirms that the tree in the artist's home of Lhasa has become quite bad, and fox masks are an increasingly common sight.

Doloin, 36, is one of Lhasa's few female artists working in a contemporary style. She is one of just two women in "Anonymous." The other is French-born

Maria Doloin Chophel, 29, who currently splits her time between Paris and New York. Her work could not be more different from Doloin's.

"Wise," executed in oil paint, enamel, marker and spray paint, conveys the topography of the lost country of Chophel's Tibetan father. The scene has transformed, out of the Himalayan onto canvas and fixed in the shapes with white paint. This is laid over a computer-generated "self" whose rigid red lines imply constraint. Beyond are dark, rolling clouds. The minimalist work is gaudily, its symbolism unappreciated.

The artist Jiameng, 42, from Lhasa, approached under a master thangka painter, and studied computer science and Chinese literature. His work, "Mr. XXX," addresses another way in which

Tibetans experience a loss of identity: the PRC issued passport-like legal-state mixed-media work on canvas contains a right of such a passport, indicating what the Chinese do with Tibetans' traditional single name. That one is listed as "nameless" and "XXX" appears where a first name would go. (ENU, for "first name unknown," is also used). These iconicographic stand-in serve to "balk identity," writes Wengqai, rather than clarify it.

Jiameng further represents alienation by replacing his passport photograph with a metallic, robotic-looking head of Tora (the female bodhisattva or Buddha) that is open on her left to reveal nothing inside.



"Ben Meditation" by Maria

young and the search for identity in a mass-media-influenced world. The imagery of his interests and artistic forms is reflected in two distinctively different contributions to "Anonymous." The two figures on the cheetahizing photograph on the cover of this issue depict these stereotypes – "Aalo Mac," "big brother," and "Prayer Wheel." Each figure here is obscured, with a red mask strips of newspaper and brocade, respectively. The portraits are simultaneously annoying and chilling.

Norrie's contribution, "Ben Meditation" is a series of six dark-red mask-like robes in wood and tripodless frames arranged in a neat row. The soft fabric of the robes hangs there partly propped up, as if a shrunken body remained within the folds. Surrounded in front of each figure are Chinese currency, temples and butter lamps. These but-not-there "figures" impose both reverence and sorrow for something lost.

"Anonymous," despite its weighty themes, is not without humor. At least, American pop-culture images such as Mickey Mouse, Shrek and Marilyn Monroe look funny in the context of classic Tibetan forms. As a religious-artistic tradition, however, such depictions stacked within the exacting sensibility of a Buddhist head (in "Poems of the Buddha," by Ang Bang) may appear serious at best.

These are but a few of the works and viewpoints expressed by the artists in "Anonymous," each expressing an identity that seems a hybrid of old and new, traditional and radical.

As for the show's amazingly iron rule, Wengqai says that was unplanned. She had invited artists to participate in the exhibit without using their names and was surprised when they chose to identify themselves. "I thought it would liberate artists to express themselves freely," she says. "But no one passed at the choice to be anonymous." Q

INFO

Anonymous: Contemporary Tibetan Art
Through June 22 at the Renwick Museum of Art, University of Wyoming, in Arlington Reception Wednesday February 8 5:30 to 7pm. Free and open to the public. For info about programming related to the exhibit visit renwickmuseum.org



Kunsang Gangchen, Gesar Tenzin

From the Himalayas to the Greens

Burlington-area Tibetans reflect on life in exile

BY KEN PETER | PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

It's minus 2 degrees Fahrenheit in Kholung Gangchen Gesar Tenzin's new covered parking lot at the G.G.T. Tibet Inn, the 21-room motel on Shelburne Road he's owned for 15 years. On this bright and bitterly cold morning, three flags — American, Canadian and Tibetan — fly from the stiff wind.

Once inside, the South Burlington innkeeper blows into cupped hands, unlocks his office door and flashes a warm smile to a reporter, G.G.T. — who prefers to use the surnames rather than his long last name — who has in a tiny Himalayan village in eastern Tibet "Gangchen" means "head of the snow" — Tibetans, but G.G.T. confesses he's no fan of Vermont's recent Arctic-like weather. "It was minus 14 when I woke up today," he exclaims. "Never this cold in Tibet."

G.G.T. has had time to scheme in other ways to his adopted "land of the snow." He was one of the first three Tibetans to arrive in Vermont in February 1991. Under the 1989 Immigration Act, 1,000 Tibetans living in exile in India, Nepal and Bhutan were chosen, via a Tibetan lottery, to receive U.S. visas. In 1993, Vermont became one of 25 resettlement sites in the United States. However, unlike other immigrants

who come to Vermont as refugees, the Tibetans were deemed "displaced persons" and hence received no financial support from the U.S. government. Instead, Vermonters had to create a generic non-profit, Refugee's Tibetan Resettlement Project, to help them get established.

Twenty-one years later, Vermont's Tibetan community is thriving. The community includes 37 families and about 188 people; most of whom still live in the Burlington area. Some work in entry-level jobs typical of new immigrants — housekeeping, custodial work, food service, assembly-line manufacturing — but many others have moved on to professional careers, including nursing, computers and the G.G.T. entrepreneurship.

"They're homeowners, they're holding down one or more jobs and they're sending their kids to school," says Gerry Hronek, who cofounded the Tibetan Resettlement Project two decades ago. "A family very rarely has one extra, a house and money in the bank. So it's a very successful community."

But some local Tibetans lament one missing aspect of their former lives: a communal gathering place where they can chat, play checkers/Chinese chess or just drink tea and talk. They lack a community center

of their own in which to hold readings, cultural hearings or other classes in Tibetan language and culture. Since further expansion is anathema, they're looking elsewhere in Vermont for funding like strangers in a foreign land, for resources from their ancestral home land and the 14th Dalai Lama, their political and spiritual leader.

Other Tibetans, like G.G.T., are as firmly

rooted in Vermont as any naturalized American. His noted khatu is a shrine to the 46-year-old's adopted country. On the walls hang framed letters from Sen. Patrick Leahy and former government officials, including president Bill Clinton, governor Howard Dean and Burlington mayor Peter Clavelle. Also displayed are letters of congratulations from the Tibetan Central Administration (Tibet's official government in exile) and G.G.T.'s naturalization certificate.

On the front deck are his family quarters, where G.G.T. lives with his wife and 8-year-old stepson. Along one wall, besides a large-screen TV, sits a traditional

"After two or three hours, Chinese soldiers come and start shooting people," he recalls. "Everybody run, run, run!" G.G.T. hid in a corner and saw a woman get shot in the back. She pleaded for his help, but G.G.T. was too frightened so he hid for her. "The army was coming behind her. I was so mad," he says.

After G.G.T. escaped, he and another Tibetan fled on foot across the mountains into India, where he lived for the next three years. Later, he was offered an opportunity to move to Switzerland but declined, remembering how his grandfather often speaks of his desire to see America.

Upon his arrival in Vermont, G.G.T. spent two years working two jobs, seven days a week, at *Verstuck's* (today their Company) and as a dishwasher at the *Banquet Inn* in South Burlington. By 1998, he'd saved enough money to buy a small house on Rose Street, and he bought his first sofa and soon to Vermont. He's since sold and bought several other properties, including the house, which he acquired in 2004.

Until now, Tibetans in exile, G.G.T. was able to return to Tibet to see his elderly parents. It was 2004, shortly before the Olympic Games in Beijing, when China briefly eased travel restrictions to Tibet. G.G.T. hasn't returned since and doubts he'll get another chance.

"I'm happy here with my kids. I can't leave that," he says. "But when I think of Tibet, I'm very sad."

Pakistanis' experiences as a Tibetan refugee are quite different. The 33-year-old Burlington resident has lived in the States since 1996, when her family moved here from southern India. Her father was one of the lucky 1,000 Tibetans chosen for a U.S. visa in the early 1990s. Once he became a U.S. citizen, he sent for his wife and kids. In all, it took more than five years to reunite the family.

Sange, who attended Burlington High School, now works at *Shripa Kitchen*, a Himalayan restaurant on College Street. Born in southern India, she's never visited her parents' home land in fact, before arriving in Vermont, she'd never even seen snow.

Sange briefly returned to Srinagar for six months, but soon realized big-city life wasn't for her. She engaged to be married, she says, but she'll likely stay in Vermont.

"Now that my whole family is here, I don't feel like moving anymore," she says. "I love it here now."

A few blocks up the street, along Tibetan Majorat Tsering quietly occupies part of the remnant of Burlington's Masonic Auditorium. Dressed in a wool cap, black trousers, weathered hoody and a Burlington Parks and Recreation hoodie but no gloves, Tsering greets a reporter with a big smile and leads the way upstairs to the building's warmest spot: the loft.

The 40-year-old Tibetan has lived in Vermont only since 2001 but speaks

impeccable English. Last year, he was elected president of the Tibetan Association of Vermont, a post that brings no salary but plenty of responsibilities, he says. Those include finding places for Tibetan gatherings such as prayer vigils, which are held whenever someone dies in Tibet from self-immolation. Since 2006, at least 125 Tibetans have taken their own lives this way to protest the Chinese occupation, says Tsering. "This fire in Tibetan history is a very sad story."

He has only vague recollections of his childhood in Tibet. The third of eight children, Tsering lived there until he was 6, when his parents immigrated here to India. What he remembers best from that arduous journey is being forced to stay hidden beneath the seat of a truck for hours.

"That was very uncomfortable. I couldn't move. I just had to stay there," he remembers. "I can still see the face of my father — the grief, the sadness, that he has to do that for me. That moment is one that I never forget."

Now, the Dalai Lama Does Notbelong to Tibetans Only. HE BELONGS TO THE WHOLE WORLD.

—SANGE AT 156 IN Mg

It was years before Tsering saw or heard from his relatives again. Like thousands of other Tibetan kids, he was raised in the Tibetan Children's Village, a boarding school in Dharmsala, India, which is also home to the Tibetan Central Administration and the 14th Dalai Lama. There, Tsering became fluent in English and first learned his native country's history.

"I didn't know that Tibet was a part of China," Tsering says, and quickly corrects himself. "No, no, no. I didn't even know Tibet was invaded by China."

Every year, he recalls, each child at the school received a personal blessing from the Dalai Lama himself. The children all stood up, prayer scarves on head, and waited for the Dalai Lama to lay a hand on their heads.

"It felt so good, I couldn't wait for another year to come," Tsering remembers with a smile. "It went on and on like that for five years," until the Dalai Lama's visits became less frequent.

"We didn't have many," Tsering explains with a sigh. After the Tibetan leader won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, he spent more time overseas.

"As a child I cherished those moments



HIGHMEAD TRADING

of getting his blessings. But now I miss that!" Tsering says. "Now, the Dalai Lama doesn't belong to Tibetans only. He belongs in the whole world. So we have to compromise."

After Tsering earned a bachelor's degree in science and education, he returned to the Tibetan Children's School to teach and "give something back." He moved to Vermont in 2006 after his wife's family settled here.

Tsering's first job was as an usher at Walgreens. The pay wasn't good by itself, but it enabled him to interact with people. Tsering says he quickly realized that being fluent in English didn't bridge all the cultural gaps.

"I'm very social person. I like making friends, talking to people, sharing stuff," he says. "But over here, I realized, people don't have time. It's 'Hi' and 'bye'! They're very strange."

For the time being, Tsering is satisfied to work for the city and live in South Burlington with his two young children and his wife, a licensed nursing assistant at *Wakas* (a non-environment community). But he doesn't intend to remain a custodian forever and wants to return to teaching.

"There's a special kind of energy, which

otherwise comes when you're with kids," Tsering says. "You become active and you start doing like a kid. I enjoy it a lot, and the kids love me."

What's a big issue two kids in America? The pace is unbearable," Tsering says, an ever-widely brightening with laughter. His kids didn't even speak English when they arrived. Three years later, their English is better than their Tibetan! But after another three, he fears they may not remember either at all.

For these reasons, Tsering takes his role with the Tibetan Association of Vermont seriously. After seeing his first Tibetan festival in Burlington, he began teaching the younger generation traditional Tibetan dances. He also plays the drums, a instrument he learned in Tibet to keep their culture alive, and in the *Dasai Lamas* he instructed them.

"To be free, being homeless, living a life outside of your country, and being gaozi in a boat for the rest of your life, it's really a pain," Tsering says. "If it's something I wish someone would have to do in their life. Even if you are happy, you are always not yourself," he adds. "You know, a lot of compromise to make." **GD**



Glove Love

2007 Photo credit: Michael J. Pergola
and Scott Klem of Winooski, VT (2001)

Vermont boxers take to the tournaments

BY ERIK ANDESESEN
Photo: S. BY ERIC VERNON

A s a result of blood trickled from his nose to his chin, super heavyweight Golden Gloves boxer Jonathan Marcelli inhaled and gradually shook his head from side to side. He knew he'd been beaten. Just 25 seconds after it started, that fight was over.

Marcelli, of Hanover, N.H., seemed even more stunned by his defeat than were the 600 or so spectators at Saturday's roughly scratchy round of the Northern New England Golden Gloves of Vermont, held at Burlington's Memorial Auditorium. His opponent, Luis Diaz-Ramirez, of St. Johnsbury, and a blend of wallop to name a TKO, an inhuman knockout, and adverse to the finish. Ramerez is now one of a select few local athletes for whom the road to Las Vegas may very well run right through downtown Burlington.

January 13 was the first of three successive Saturdays of competition in the regional chapter of the country's premier amateur boxing tournament. The semifinals were held on January 25, and the finals will take place at Memorial Auditorium on February 1.

Right now an new divisional competitor in the Golden Gloves tournament, boxers with fewer than 10 bouts under their belts are

divided into the novice division, and their

ights consist of three two-minute rounds,

the open division's for more experienced

fighters, who spar for three three-minute

rounds.

The boxer who won in each weight class proceed to the New England Golden Gloves tournament in Las Vegas, in late February, where they'll battle other regional champions. Las Vegas will host the National Golden Gloves event in May.

You won't recognize any of these fighters from Sports Illustrated, or even from the pages of local sports sections. These are amateur boxers, unpaid and competing for — just one or more of the following — pride, glory, exercise, the fulfillment of a dream, the love of the sport or a long-shot chance at the big time. The only money that changes hands goes toward basic operating expenses, such as travel, food and lodging.

The boxers competing in the tournament are not even under contract, which means that it's not unusual for a match to be canceled because one of the scheduled boxers simply doesn't show up.

But the occasional no-show is just part of the experience, explains tournament director, Tom Ferrer, 51, which began running this event for nearly four decades

Saturday's red-dirt fall out place until 24 hours before the bouts begin. Ferrer — who's better known locally for his 40-plus years on the air at WCFR — took over operations of the tournament "right after the '76 Olympics." He was just 18, and then the youngest management director in the nationwide Golden Gloves network.

At the time, Ferrer, a longtime resident of St. Albans, was running a couple of amateur boxing competitions for money's sake, which was a experience enough for him to step into a supervisory role. By the mid-'80s, the local Golden Gloves tournament had been dormant for a few years. That meant Ferrer didn't have access to a venue, or boxing gloves, or a boxing ring.

"So I went out and found a ring," because "I can't remember what it was from it was an old wooden ring that had been around and was used to the Clinton years before."

Ferrer approached his friend James Cummings, then the director of the Burlington Boys Club, who provided a sparring space in the club's gym. The space prohibited the elevation of the ring, and the room held only about 200 people, but the tournament survived. A few years later, after 4 more sites in the Winooski High School gymnasium, the Golden Gloves

I QUIT THE DRUGS,
GOT STRAIGHT AND,
TWO MONTHS LATER,
walked into a
[boxing] club
and said, "this
is what I want
to do."

DAVE HUCKABEE

PRECISION
BOXING CLUB



Dave Huckabee

moved to Memorial Auditorium, where it has taken place every year since.

Each regional tournament has a specific geographical area from which it draws its fighters; the local tournament draws from all of Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire north of Concord.

Vermont fighters received the biggest cheers last Saturday night, but the enthusiastic crowd had clearly converged in Burlington from all over the region to cheer on their own local boys. Holleroff encouraged and advised, "Uppermost," "Get 'em, docty" — ring out in the arena.

While northern New England may not have strong associations with boxing, Ferrier asserts that the region has produced its fair share of good fighters. And big ones, too. "The point," Ferrier notes, "we're short with the lower weight classes. We don't grow 'em that small here," he says with a smile.

The heavyweights attract the most attention, but some of the best boxing has occurred in the middleweight division. South Burlington's Anthony Tamburro, 25, making his ring debut, was the most impressive fighter on the card. His gift dueling mid-bellows earned him an opponent, Ben Koch of Essex Junction, connected only rarely. Having disconnected

Koch with his defensive style, Tamburro quickly turned on the offense, stunning Koch with quick appears. By 1:49 of round one, Koch indicated the ref that he couldn't continue, and Tamburro had scored a TKO in his very first bout.

Tamburro trains at Opposing Force Boxing Club in South Burlington. He took the fight on short notice, which meant he had to lose 10 pounds in about seven days.

"I really had to change my diet ... and be careful with my liquid intake," he says. "Lots of grilled chicken and mashed vegetables."

Tamburro looked great on Saturday night — but a boxer's life is never sure, as is apparent before. The name of Charlie "Buster" Banister is not especially recognizable, but, says local boxing historian Robert Winkler, he was one of the most notable Vermont boxers, having competed for the middleweight championship in the early 1940s. Most of Banister's contests took place within Vermont's borders, at venues in Burlington, Brattleboro and Larimore.

"There's a rich history of boxing in the Manchester-Burlington area," says Winkler, who runs the website Vermont Boxing History & International Fighting Review, and edits the back Glover: The Stories of Vermont's

Greater Boston, Thruway, and Pennsylvania, coauthored by Ferrier and Alan R. Rabel. Winkler's own research is focused on local boxing in the years prior to 1955, when the sport was popular, ubiquitous and relatively unorganized by financial interests.

"When you talk about boxing in Vermont," Winkler says, "it really means boxing in New England, because people would come in from Maine, none in from Boston." He adds that the sport was "seen as an outlet for young men. Instead of running around the streets and getting into trouble, they would box and learn discipline and learn how to compete."

Asked what he loves most about the sport, Ferrier answers, "Fighters compete with Winkler. It gives kids an outlet for their

that may be true, but neither the boxers nor the crowd seemed put out on Saturday night. Memorial Auditorium, with its exposed girders and uncomfortable bleacher seats, feels like an old boxing gym. And the ring is situated right in the center of the floor, so every seat affords an excellent view.

More important, Winkler notes, is the need for Ferrier to grow his own replacement. Winkler suggests there may be no one else "with the passion and the love and the determination and the time and everything else" — that is, fighters — "to do this."

Ferrier doesn't see either situation as a problem, as any case, he, Vicki, Sherry, and sons Mike and Tony all take part in the operation of the tournament. Winkler's confidence there's plenty of community support for local amateur boxing.

Dave Huckabee of Burlington, who fought an Stanley in the light heavyweight division, was something of a crowd favorite, and it was easy to see why. Handsome and athletic, Huckabee is a powerful puncher and has a genuine presence in the ring. He bypassed the do-rigorous glom-bump and instead bagged his opponent, Athelis Anchors of Stowe, Maine, after three rounds and thanked Anchors' manager, Shadab Khan, for the club had drawn up signs of support using markers on paper plates.

Huckabee, 25, a bouncer and writer at several Burlington restaurants, trains at Precision Boxing Club in Williston. He got into boxing about three years ago for precisely the reason that makes Ferrier value the sport: clean up his act. "I was into drugs and partying, and I got 20, 25, and I just realized I wasn't doing anything with my life," Huckabee said in an interview before his bout. "I quit the drugs, got straight and, two months later, walked into a [boxing] club and said, 'This is what I want to do.' This is it."

Huckabee charmed his former self as a "sweat fighter," he said, but had he realized — after being "embarrassed" the first time he stepped in the ring — that he was not even close to being a boxer? "If you're out fighting on the street, don't think you can walk in here and lay a punch on any of these guys," Huckabee said, "cause they're smarter and faster, and they know what's up."

Because Huckabee started a boxing career at 20, he chances of reaching the big time are slim, though he still holds the hope he's achieving that goal.

That's not why he was here, though. Lamenting it up in winter that would surely make Ferrier proud, Huckabee said, "[Boxing] does wonders for me — it won't let you go to sleep what I've got. I don't want to be one of those guys who laid back when he's, like, 25 and goes, 'I didn't see what I was made of. I didn't see what I had to offer.'"

INFO

Northern New England Golden Gloves tournament: Saturday, February 11 1:30 p.m. at Memorial Auditorium in Rutland. \$10 tickets. \$14 reserved seats.

Father Knows Best

"Father Rich" brings Catholics back to the fold with straight talk and social media

BY CHARLES DICK ACKER

On January 13, Rev. Karl Handly was having such a bad day that he thought about hitting the bottle. He'd spilled five gallons of tylosin oil on the floor of his Burlington restaurant, Handly's Lunch, then had a car accident on his way to pick up cat litter. Looking for a lifeline, Handly, 38, reached out to his priest of Christ the King Church.

It wasn't booze that tempted Handly. Father Richard O'Donnell had handed out bottles of holy water to parishioners several weeks earlier, Handly recalls, "so I sent Father Rich a message saying, 'I still have the holy water. How much of it can I drink?'" O'Donnell

texted back his assurance that Handly's day hadn't been that bad. When Handly still insisted he needed a sip of the blessed brewage, the pastor recommended he instead sprinkle the water around him and say a prayer, after which everything would work out.

For Handly, that seemed to do the trick. "The answer had that connection," he now avers. "Maybe it's just the 21st century, where you can send your priest a text when you're having a tough one — but [O'Donnell] responds, and he's a busy man."

Handy isn't the only Catholic who's taken a shine to Burlington's new reverend. Among O'Donnell's fans, the restaurateur says, are Handly's 5-year-old twins, who now enjoy going to mass every Sunday, in part because the church recently started providing crayons and grapefruits — the "Holy Boblekins" — for them to color.

More adults are getting involved at Christ the King, too, and in the process are helping a decades-long trend. Although Catholicism remains the Green Mountain State's majority religion, from 2000 to 2010 the number of practicing Catholics in Vermont dropped by 20,000 people — 13 percent — according to a report from the Association of Catholic Data Archivists. Between 1840 and 2000, 3,300 Catholic parishes stopped holding church services.

O'Donnell, 36, was installed at Christ the King Church and School (which shares a parish with St. Anthony's Church) just last July. Since then, 56 families have joined his church. The number of parishioners who volunteer at mass has tripled, and this coming Easter, 15 people — young and old alike — are slated for baptism.

Does the rock-star status of Pope Francis deserve credit for those numbers? "That was my first thought," says the Very Rev. Michael Conroy, an Adoration priest at St. Michael's College. "But I think it's more Father Rich's personality and his willingness to come and work. Not that the people before [him] didn't work, but he's a very engaging and dynamic guy."

Indeed, for all the media attention around Pope Francis, his progressive statements have yet to hit a critical mass of Americans across the religious divide. A November study by the Pew Research Center found that the portion of Americans identifying as Catholic had remained steady at 23 percent since last spring.

At Christ the King, however, "the church is full. There's more families and younger people," says Handly, a lifelong parishioner. "I think it's a Father Rich thing."



On the evening of January 8, the Sunday before Epiphany, a couple hundred people attended O'Donnell's mass, including several children. Epiphany marks the arrival of the Magi to Jerusalem, so O'Donnell had placed several pots of gold, frankincense and myrrh in front of the altar. "If you touch the gold," he said drily at the beginning of his sermon, "you'll have forever." The audience laughed.

The priest went on, wondering aloud what gifts the charioteers would have brought to the Christ child's manger. "The King and sister, you have on your coat? Would you simply get a used and write a check? Would you find a family in need and sweep that gift? Would it be a family in need, a renovation, a mission? That all charioteers give their hearts to the Lord. Stirring words, certainly, but few and belatedly this sermon was cast.

"I guess that's my personality," O'Donnell says about his jokes in an interview several weeks later. "The mass is very sacred, but I always try to make my sermons applicable to daily living. I think we're all just trying to get through the week. I don't expect perfection, and I want us all to try our best and be happy."

Born in the Boston area and raised in Bellevue Falls, O'Donnell says he decided to enter the priesthood early. He took inspiration from the positive example of priests he knew growing up, "great men [who] weren't grumpy about their work." O'Donnell's father worked for the town of Brattleboro; his mother was a camp's aid.

After attending Boston College, O'Donnell did his seminary studies at Mount St. Mary's University in Maryland. His only clerical drama included terms as chaplain of the Mount St. Mary's baseball team, assistant priest at St. Johnsbury and administrator in its Knowlesville Parish church. In June 2008, the Most Rev. Salvatore Matano, who had just been installed bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington, assigned O'Donnell to become priest at St. Michael Roman Catholic Church and School in Brattleboro.

When O'Donnell arrived there, says, attendance had declined to mass, and the school was on the verge of closing. He handled these challenges, attracting "inusive Catholics" back to the parish and leaving the school with an A-plus record. But when Tropical Storm Irene wreaked havoc in Windham County in 2011, O'Donnell realized his administrative talents were best used to the least.

As chaplain of the Brattleboro fire and police departments, O'Donnell was with the first responders during the storm. Only after the winter weather could they start defrosting aid to nearby towns such as Newfane, O'Donnell recalls, "but there was a lot of work, a lot of dedication, and a lot of it was just listening. I remember going to people's houses that had lost almost everything, and you just listen."

Timothy O'Connor Jr., a St. Michael parishioner and former speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives, recalls O'Donnell speaking at a vigil after the storm. "He had a great way of understanding ... what those were issues that had to be dealt with," O'Connor says. "He was trying to draw up the people to talk contributions and clothing and help get the community back together."

Because of these people skills, O'Connor adds, "I used to kid him. I used to tell him, 'I think you would have made a hell of a politician.'"

Now in Burlington, O'Donnell is a policeman of sorts. He's starting a variety of ministries "to get as many people

involved in their faith as possible." In says, one of these parishioners to give roses to people with disabilities on Valentine's Day. While his church is in Burlington's comfortable South End, O'Donnell says he's trying to draw his parishioners' attention to the needs of people elsewhere in the city. He himself serves some of those needs as chaplain for the Burlington Fire Department.

Finally, O'Donnell is social media savvy. On Facebook he announces upcoming masses to his 2000+ core friends, describes himself as being "in a complicated relationship" and updates his status with varying degrees of seriousness. On March 12 at



I DON'T EXPECT PERFECTION, AND I WANT US ALL TO TRY OUR BEST AND BE HAPPY.

RICHARD O'DONNELL

last year, for example, came this update: "Schools are ringing in Birelhache. We have a page." A week earlier, he'd shared a picture of "Pub's The Official St. Mac's of Birelhache."

"That's one of the reasons he connects so well. He's got a unique name, after all," says Matt Viest, former president of the Professional Firefighters of Vermont. He appointed O'Donnell as that organization's official chaplain after meeting him in Birelhache. "Darthie's in a firehouse and he's a natural," adds Viest.

It's easy to draw comparisons between Christ the King's young, iPhone-equipped pastor and Pope Francis. The latter has made waves just by opening a Twitter account and posting for advice with members of his flock, but also by demonstrating conservation for their narrow focus on social issues such as gay marriage, when poverty knows no large, aerosolized world.

O'Donnell says he doesn't believe what Pope Francis is saying about poverty is new, rather, it's "basically saying it's

How would he react if a same-sex couple wanted to join Christ the King? O'Donnell says, "We never would turn anybody away. The gospel obviously calls us to love and to love everybody, and our present pop is calling on us really speak with that a cross and speak with that love."

Asked about the several dozen cases that have reached the Catholic Church here and abroad, O'Donnell points to policies now in place to ensure such acts don't recur. "As a whole, yeah, the church really needs to respond with a reasonable sense of hope that what's going to be regular and make sure ... those horrific situations will never happen again," he says. "When we there is



2/15

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Vermont Stage Company
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FlynnSpace (2/11-16)

2/17 FR

VAN CLIBURN SILVER MEDALIST

UVa Recital Hall

2/18 SA

"STEPPING OUT: UNLEASHING POWER & GRACE"

Main Street Landing

2/19 TU

GREEN DAY'S "AMERICAN IDIOT"

photo by Jeremy DeGruy
Flynn MainStage (2/11-12)

2/14 FR

GRYPHON TRIO

UVa Recital Hall

2/15 SA

KRONOS QUARTET

"Black Angels" & Other Works
Flynn MainStage

2/16 SU

FOREIGNER

Flynn MainStage

ME2/STRINGS

Mihane Center for the Arts

2/17 TH

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

Flynn MainStage

IMPROVISED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
FlynnSpace (2/19-21)

PARISII QUARTET
College St. Congregational Church

2/21 FR
FATOUMATA OIWARA

Flynn MainStage
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Palace 9 Cinemas

2/22 SA
JAMES CARTER ORGAN TRIO

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2/25 TU
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2/27 TH
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Produce Pangs

A food buyer weighs in on local options for winter eating

BY ETHAN DE SEIFE



PHOTO: JESSICA LEE FOR VERMONT LIVING MARKET

The locavore movement has made pretty serious inroads in Vermont. Grocery stores proudly promote the local provenance of their wares, and many residents are willing to pay a little more for food that's local, organic and sustainability-minded.

But even the most devout Vermont locavores must annually confront a theory difference: winter. The recent autumn temps have underscored the fact that, for a good portion of the year, eating locally requires creativity—and some sacrifices in the kitchen. What's a localized

lover to do when the temperatures make even the fake plants quiver?

Nantyan Plasha, 35, is the weekend supervisor of the produce department at South Burlington's Healthy Living Market. He has spent most of his professional life in the natural foods field—including working on organic farms in Hawaii and upstate New York. He converses easily with growers and distributors of local produce and enjoys partial responsibility for some of the meals you've eaten recently.

Plasha, who lives in Charlotte, understands better than most people

how a Vermont deep freeze can off-set gustatory habits. Nevertheless, he says, "My basic perspective is that we've got it really good in Vermont as far as food availability goes, for being in such a cold, northern climate."

A number of local farms have committed to growing and selling fresh produce year-round. Plasha regularly buys fruits, for example, Juniper Sisters Farm, Biggest Marth Collective Farm in Burlington's Intervale, and two farms that belong to the Deep Root Organic Go up Valley Dream Farm of Cambridge and River Berry Farm of Putney.

Purchasing produce is Plasha's job, but eating it is his pleasure. During an interview at the store, his eyes light up when he speaks of local apples, carrots and asparagus. In an email later, he singles out the amazing scarlet turnip as a particularly good option for wintertime roasting. The simpler the preparation of such root veggies, the better off, as he and pepper. "Sometimes I sprinkle in rubbed sage or dried rosemary," Plasha adds, "but not if I want to connect with the essential flavor of the vegetable, like when I'm preparing it for the first time."

The year-round abundance of good produce is partly due to a "vac array" of root and vegetables, Plasha says, and notes that Healthy Living sells four or five varieties of turnips alone. Roots store well, and fall crops can be stored with no appreciable loss in quality through the following spring, even early summer.

So it's not that big a deal to fill out, say, locally grown carrots in grocery shelves in January. What's more remarkable is that some of those carrots are still available in June, long after being harvested. "It's just incredible what we have that potential here," Plasha says.

The same holds for local apples. Some Vermont orchards—Plasha mentions Shoreline's Champlain Orchards—have "pretty sophisticated storage facilities" that enable them to deliver one season's crop of apples to local stores right up until the next year's harvest. That means the apple you eat in May might be several months old.

Plasha admits he can taste a bit of a diff essence, still. He says, "From my standpoint, it's better eating than anything coming from New Zealand or Washington or South America. I prefer the local apples, whether the quality is high or mediocre." He imagines one Dwight Morrow orchard of East Burlington as having particularly delicious fruit.

His employer, Plasha notes, is committed to offering as much local produce as possible. "It's our primary concern," he says. "We will even sell the local option because it's local, even if it's going to be at a higher cost."

During the colder months, though, certain crops are simply not available



11 SIDE dishes

BY EDEN HIRSCH & ALICE LEVITT

Brews With a View

BY KAREN LINTCOP
MICROBREWERY THIS SUMMER
Lake Champlain's "Left Bank" will get a little micer this summer when a micro-brewery opens in Peru, NY.

PAUL COOL BREWING COMPANY will have views of the falls and the island from which it takes its name, according to owners **PAUL F. PEAL** and **TERRY SCHMIDT**, who drew inspiration from the region's boasting beer scene. "We went through the **AMERICAN BREWERY GUIDE** (Johnson) in Vermont and graduated from these last summer," says Peal, referring to the brewing school inside Middlebury's **CAMP IN BROWNS** COMPANY. "We decided, 'You know what, let's take the hobby that we love doing and do it full time.'

Though the couple will not break ground until mid-April, they've been busy perfecting their recipe alongside head brewer **KEAN COOPER**. They're also having plans for their post-and-beam tasting room and a deck with views of Mt. Mansfield across the lake.

Though they currently live in Virginia, Peal and Schmidt have kept ties to northern New York. Peal grew up in the Plattsburgh area, where her family still owns a house.

Brewer who will also migrate to northern New York, seems charged by the prospect of turning out Vermont's hop-driven brews. "I'd know a few of pale ales, a black IPA, and we're going to do an amber ale as well," he says. Some of the initial offerings will be "stepping stone beers" as Joseph puts it, that appeal to diverse palates: seasonal

beers such as pumpkin beer and blueberry will round out the roster.

"I'm still trying to get a feel for what the community likes to drink, but we'll have a nice lineup of beers," Joseph says.

— E.H.

Blooming Brews

AT CEDAR CREEK BREWERY PLANS TO NEW CANNED BEER, NEW BREW STORES OPEN IN FEBRUARY

Fresh on the heels of the news that they're planning a new brewery, the guys at the **CEDAR CREEK** made their fans very happy earlier this week when they announced a forthcoming canned IPA, called **FICELLA HOPPER**.

"On a recent **ASIAN** [Johnson] has been playing with the recipe and getting hops contracts on line, so that is a well-beaten path," says owner and canned label, "writes **JEN RIBBON** in an email. "Once our new brewery is built, this will be brewed and canned all the time."

Since the Rimonachs started their Waterbury Center at-stores in November, John Rimonach has expanded the distribution of their signature **HEAVY HOPPER** and released a few draft beers — including a dark IPA called **ALUM** — to local bars and restaurants. "In a couple weeks, we will be releasing the first batch of **Stout Banger**, an American IPA, first brewed at the pub-hack in the sketchy," writes Rimonach on the Alchemist blog.

The bar draws on Alchemist and Grafton hops, "and we are working on fine-tuning the math bit," he adds. The Rimonachs aren't planning a big reveal either: **Stout Banger** may "pop up" for sale

in cans in an experimental run very soon.

Meanwhile, those who want to try their hands at home brewing — or just sample beers from far-flung

East of Colchester

AMERICANA SUPERMARKET STORE

WHILE Seven Days visited **WILHELM RESTAURANT** at his newly opened **AMERICANA SUPERMARKET** at 70 Roosevelt Highway in Colchester on Monday morning, he requested that a specific quote file in the paper. "He loves Vermont too much," the young shop owner said, describing himself.

The Iraqi native has chosen to adopt his adopted home. Just a week after opening his business, he says the store has built a healthy base.

Inside Middle Eastern groceries and Middle Eastern housewares, Americana Supermarket stocks practically anything a cook from Asia Minor — or one simply trying to reproduce its cuisine — could wish for. Specialty shelves hold tails of hard-to-find flavorings. Combinations intended especially for beer: shawarma, tabouli hummus and dolmades bear the store's name and address along with a photo of the appropriate finished dish.



Many Americans shoppers still face a steep learning curve with Middle Eastern cuisines, but Almontani says he enjoys introducing his neighbors to the culinary secrets of his culture. "I welcome anyone to come visit me and see what I have," he says.

"What he has" also includes an array of cheeses you're unlikely to see elsewhere in Vermont, along with candies, vinegars and salad dressings. Later this week, Almontani and chef **LEAH MARSALA** will introduce prepared foods to their store while continuing to expand their range of groceries. Almontani says to expect lab, shawarma and hummus wraps, a spread somewhere between mild cheese and cheddar cheese, in the grab-and-go area.

What of the restaurant just down the steps from the grocery? For now, Almontani says, the extreme cold has made work on the space nearly impossible. But he expects to be serving shish taouk, hummus and salads by the end of February.

— A.L.

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Produce Pangs

Locally, and there when Heather Loring and other growers here try to fill the gap with produce from other states and countries. "You realize that we sell many organic berries as we do in the winter," Loring remarks, "especially because the prices are so high."

Still, the produce buyer knows when it's not advantageous to "push our luck," as he puts it, citing stone fruits as a prime example. "Somewhere in the world, they've got fresh peaches and plums right now, but they're probably conventional, and we just choose not to sell them," Loring says. "And I think customers accept that."

Commercial growers use greenhouses or hoop houses even with such measures, though, as Loring notes, "There's only so much sunlight." The crops in such facilities may not do, but they may not do much growing either.

A Vermont winter is a serious thing. The US Department of Agriculture occasionally publishes a resource called the Plant Hardiness Zone Map, which breaks down the geographical regions of the country by their average annual extreme minimum temperature. The entirety of Vermont is covered by zones 3a to 5b, which means that, on average, state minimum temperatures in the



Even though winter time is citrus time, Loring finds that, made from such popular items as naval oranges and satsuma tangerines, "some of the other citrus gets ignored." The store has a hard time moving such fruits, despite their seasonality.

If you're curious about the taste of some oddball citrus fruit, or any other item in the produce department, ask for a sample, Loring advises. Most customers don't know that is an option, but many produce merchants will let you try a slice of that weird yellow thing next to the pineapples.

So when winter's bounty is unrefined, what do customers do? "Warming foods," says Loring, including and delicate squash, root veggies such as carrots, potatoes and sweet potato; and grains such as kale and amaranth. The latter, Loring specifies, feels "wetter" due to its slippery fiber. "And ginger! We sell tons of ginger in the winter," he adds.

To continue growing certain hardy crops during the winter, some

winter range from minus 10 to minus 35 degrees Fahrenheit. That's pretty darn cold for a human, but at least we can put on layers and turn up the thermostat. The cold is lethal to most crops.

Susan Luttrell, the horticultural editor at Williston's nonprofit National Gardening Association, says that the Plant Hardiness Zone Map is a useful document, but it's more relevant to homeowners than to small-scale food crops. More important, she says, is the duration of a region's growing season, defined as the span between the spring's last frost and the fall's first. According to data compiled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, most of Vermont is frost-free only from late October to early May. "That's why, essentially, we can't grow watermelons in Vermont," says Luttrell.

For her part, she's more than happy

**More food after the
 classifieds section.** PAGE 43

1 SIDE dishes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41

Mark Bruckman and
Mulan Ochiwa



PHOTO BY JEFFREY ST. CLAIR

with Vermont's cold-weather crops. "It's a big squash fest," Littlefield says.

Cold hydroponically raised produce fill in the gaps in the produce calendar. "That's not happening," Plasha says. "Not yet, anyway." At the moment, he explains hydroponic produce occupies niche, but the process is too complicated and costly to address cold-weather fruit and vegetable needs in any broad-based way.

The notable exception is the store's offering of hydroponically raised bib lettuce produced by Windfield's Green Mountain Harvest Hydroponics, a company that Adam Levin founded in Seven Days in October 2012. Aside from a few other products—local tomatoes, watercress (from California) and European cresscress (from Canada)—Healthy Living carries little hydroponic produce, Plasha says.

In any case, he says, only one local company—Vermont Hydroponic Produce in Fairlee—can provide such produce in any significant volume. Plasha calls its tomatoes "good enough and local, so people are excited about

that, even though it's not a field-grown tomato.... There's a large portion of the year where we're featuring their tomatoes, and those are selling better than most of the organic tomatoes that we have."

WE'VE GOT IT REALLY GOOD IN VERMONT AS FAR AS FOOD AVAILABILITY GOES, FOR BEING IN SUCH A COLD, NORTHERN CLIMATE.

—MARKET PLASHA

Plasha has been working at Healthy Living for five years. In that time, he's seen parents' "food consciousness" change, he says, to the point that some customers seek out specific foods from a particular grower and no other. This

as well as home-brewing equipment ranging from carboys and Cornelius kegs to hops, yeast and malt. The staff has installed a 30-gallon brewing system around which to build future classes, according to co-owner **VERNE GERHARD**.

In Chittenden County, **BEER FESTIVAL** is the main draw at Wilson's Maple Tree Place (at 188 Fairwood Street) around Thanksgiving. The store carries 500 bottled beers from near and far—including brews from Belgium, Japan and Norway—as well as stacking gluten-free beers and a five-top growler bar.

—C.R.

Passing the Torch

NEW OWNERS TAKE OVER CHURCH STREET TAVERN

THREE BROTHERS has spent 16 years working his way through the ranks of **CHURCH STREET TAVERN**. Having started as a bartender, Plasha was most recently general manager of the downtown Burlington staple. On

Monday he became the owner, along with sister **MICHAELA**. The pair took over from **CHRISTOPHER** and **DAWN TAYLOR**, who had owned the sports bar for 18 years.

Plasha and Michaela's first order of business was starting renovations in search of what Plasha calls a "more modern, fresh, new look." He hopes that the renovation will be back open by February 4, complete with new hood systems, an extra flat-screen TV for sports fans and a fresh coat of paint.

As for food, diners can still expect "pub fare at a good, reasonable price," says Plasha. "That will include a new emphasis on wings, including Buffalo wings, double fried with sauce to capture the flavor without the mess." They'll half off on Thursdays, one of several nights boasting discounted specials.

—A.L.

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Capitol Chow

The Abbey Group prevents Vermont pols from running on empty

BY ALICE LEWITT



By Alice Lewitt
photograph by Alan

Most people who consider a career in politics see it as a way to serve their communities. Some are just busy but the Vermont statehouse offers delectable rewards besides public service: making history. Say Ward's chocolate chip cookies.

Ward, executive chef at Montpelier's Capitol Road Court, perfected his recipe during his 12 years tenure as chef at Bell's Bistro. Ward's Restaurant. His cookie crusades at its edge, giving way to a soft, chewy cookie studded with innocent chocolate chunks. It's a cookie worth traveling for, or even nibbling a Senate seat.

At the dawn of this year's legislative session, Seven Days spent a break hour at the busy eatery that feeds 800 to 900 politicians, lobbyists and pages every day from January through May — and is open to the public.

For seven years, food-service company The Abbey Group has been the force behind the locally favored fare in Montpelier, with Ward in charge from the start: the group had an earlier, three-year contract there before its current regime. The eatery is still active in percentage for state functions July

to the statehouse is far from the Abbey Group's only cafeteria account. The Sheldon-based business manages nearly 80 institutional sites across the state, as well as a few across the border in New Hampshire and New York. Its story begins in 1982 when Sheldon native David Underwood renovated his own childhood home and purchased the spacious Abey's restaurant.

"I realized I was going to have to do really well and not rely on being in the middle of nowhere," Underwood recalls. He converted his restaurant to include a banquet hall and began offering off-site catering.

Assisted by that success, Underwood put on a successful bid against corporations Stedman and Aramark to feed students at the state's testing Believe Free Academy. In the quarter century since, the company has ballooned to a user employee base of 500.

According to Underwood, the key to the Abbey Group's success is that each eatery adapts to its community. Individual chefs work with nearby farmers, as well as with bigger suppliers, such as Redstar Foodservice and Burlington Foodservice Company, to include Vermont products

in menus whenever possible. Available dishes also vary by location. For example, Abbey Group caters in the Winooski school system always offer options to fit the dietary needs of the diverse students represented there. Underwood takes pride in being invited on whole wheat breads and lots of fruit and vegetable options in his school cafeteria long before the government mandated them, he says.

And what about feeding the people who make the laws? According to Gerry Morris of Abey's group Morris & DeBart, Capitol Road Court or location such as the state office or the middle of a busy day. "This is our second home, and [Ward] makes our house-cooked food," says the man whose clients include Stateleg. "It's very comfortable."

Morris says his favorite dish in Ward's American chop suey with a side of "Italian cole slaw," a vinegar-and-oil coleslaw salad available on the salad bar. He's not even Capitol Road Court's most devoted fan, though. Senate Minority Leader Bill Doyle (D-Waterloo) n

While several dishes at the cafeteria's grill station have government-themed

names, such as the Committee Chcken, Corndog Bites and Fried Fish and Chips, the only one named for a legislator is Senator Doyle Dogs. The senator's love of red onion fajitas lured Wood to name the fajitas dogs smothered in them and topped with Cabot cheddar after the 77-year-old Sen. Doyle regularly lunched on the fajitas. "When he's here, he goes wild," Wood says.

And Doyle is there a lot. "He's here basically every day of the year," says Wood with visible affection. "We actually have closed on a holiday, and I've come in and made him a sandwich and I've come in and made him something so he can have something to eat."

Subsidizing on Wood's soup isn't a bad thing. His menu of sandwiches swap in meaty with lean strips of fango in a hearty bread. When seven Dogs visited, that was the first option, the second was a portuguese-style sandwich. The special of the day was a tangy chile with just a hint of heat, served with a thick square of mayonnaise.

Wood's seven employees practically run everything in-house except the barn for burgers and the breads for made-in-order deli sandwiches. (They might take those items if they had more space, Wood says.) The superior quality of housemade products isn't the only reason for the from-scratch ethos. Wood explains that it's significantly cheaper to prepare his own dressings or make his own whole-grain mustard-sesame种子 than to buy the equivalent elsewhere.

While many delis across the state提倡从学校或学校, Capital Food Court is not subsidized. But the prices are still reasonably low. A Mayan Roast Turkey sandwich, meat from being marinated in house and topped with Cabot cheddar goes into a \$5 sandwich. A Roasted Turkey Burger goes the same.

The deli also boasts local ingredients, including Shadow Cross Farm eggs, produce from Paul Marais's Fruit & Vegetables and the winter lettuce of Windham's Green Mountain Harvest Hydroponics. That last item may always available, Wood says, since the deli's been hydroponic a week, and the eatery has limited storage capacity.

With or without local lettuces, the salad bar has got bogged down with long lines of people waiting to sample about 30 items, including crimp-edged rolls, cubed Spanish rice and a selection of legume-based house dressings (the napoleons are especially good). "When the chambers empty out, guess where they go?" asks Underwood, who is perpetually on the road, traveling from site to site. At the Statehouse, he says, "You don't have

anybody in line, and, all of a sudden, you've got 200 people in line."

The rush doesn't prevent them from getting individual attention. Wood says some Statehouse regulars have the same order every day. He starts preparing their meal as soon as he sees them enter the lunch line.

Rep. Mike McCarty (D-St. Albans) leaves a fajita or two about 10 a.m. He and his family own Cosmic Bakery & Cafe in St. Albans, which serves hand-pressed coffee from the roastery wrap he's acquired at Capital Food Court on a recent Thursday as he settles in for lunch, he marvels. "Especially when you consider the reputation that Capitol institutional food has, they really keep things moving here and give you some options. The staff is really friendly and great, and I think they know what they're doing."

Wood agrees that his staff is a great support. "Two have worked with him since 1993," Abbey Group began serving at the Statehouse. Others come on board through the Vermont Association of Business, Industry and Rehabilitation, from which Wood hires an employee each year.

He's not just the one getting to know the faces behind the service line that gives Capital Food Court a small-town feeling. Sometimes legislators contribute to the menu. Wood says the most popular sandwich is one plated by former Senator Smith (D-New Haven) of New Haven's Smith Family Farm. To prepare dinner experiences, Wood plans the day's day, such as a Polish-Ukrainian lunch of pierogi and bigos to recently served in celebration the memory of several legislators.

All this improves the quality of life for politicians stuck "on campus" throughout the session. Wood keeps their meals in mind. Besides sourcing locally whenever he can, he seeks to keep waste to a minimum. "We recycle everything here," says the chef. The kitchen is working to refine an already successful compost program. "We'll work together to make this the best place it can be," Wood says of the Statehouse.

Whether the diners are a group of African dignitaries having their first taste of America or 30-year veterans such as Doyle, the Abbey Group makes sure everyone who enters Capital Food Court gets a wholesome meal. Preferably finished off with a chocolate chip cookie.

INFO

Capital Food Court, 105 State Street
Montpelier, 802-229-2282

FARMER'S DINNER

Juniper

February 1st, 2014

6 PM Reception/6:30 PM Dinner

Four courses, \$55 per person
Reservations recommended

802.651.5027



Entertainment by Maple Wind Farm, Scalloped Fish, Fenn's Grilled, 10% of proceeds donated to the Jack Lauer Fund of Chittenden Farm.



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BierhausStLcote.com/Manuary
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Festivities begin at 3pm
Judging begins at 3pm
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In Tune

When the Vida Guitar Quartet performs, it's hard to believe that a sound so large and complex comes from just four musicians. Formed in 2003, the internationally acclaimed group is one of the United Kingdom's most sought-after ensembles. Known for expanding the range of the acoustic guitar, members Mark Ashford, Mark Rids, Helen Sanderson and Chris Bell wield technical mastery with lighthearted spontaneity. The dynamic mix of control and creativity allows for a diverse repertoire that weaves from the gypsy-inspired music of Spain to selections from Scotland, Brazil and beyond. The result: Gramophone says, "There's only one word for it: magic."

VIDA GUITAR QUARTET

Wednesday, January 30, 7 p.m. at Cascina Center, Cascina State College, 530 16th Ave. Info: 406-778-3189. www.vida-guitar.com



FEB. 1 | MUSIC

Northern Exposure

With every performance, Le Vent du Nord bring the past into the present. One of the top French Canadian bands touring today, the group intertwines its Quebecois roots with modern progressive folk. "An innovative, accessible approach has won over audiences and critics alike, as evidenced by the four same's two Juno Awards among other industry accolades. Since 2002 these Reconcophones ambassadors have honed a sound the *Boston Herald* claims is "defined by the harp-guitar which adds an earthy, rough-hewn flavor to even the most buoyant dance tunes." The energetic performers deliver traditional tunes and originals in a toe-tapping concert.

LE VENT DU NORD

Saturday, February 1, 7:30 p.m. at Barre Open House, 534 8th St. Info: 406-449-5999. barreopenhouse.org



SAY HELLO
WITH THE NEW
LG WING

calendar

SECTION 4B PAGE

INFANT OPENINGS at the Essex location!

DON'T JUST
**HANG
OUT.**
JOIN THE FUN

Afternoon
Activities
Supervised
Swim
Climbing Wall
Zipline
Foreign Language
Music
Science
Park & Sports School
Gymnastics

AFTERSCHOOL
PROGRAMS
openings at all three
Montpelier locations
over 10 schools
throughout Vermont

the EDGE SPORTS & FITNESS
PHYSICAL THERAPY
GYM & FITNESS

KIDS & FITNESS INFANTS TODDLERS PRESCHOOL

Montpelier 802-229-0149
Essex, Winooski 802-860-0000
Burlington 802-865-0001
edgeathome@gmail.com

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Burlington 802-865-0001
edgeathome@gmail.com

CHARTERBOAT: WINTERHAWK, CIRCUS TRIPS
Learn about Nordic winter sports, including snowshoeing, snow tubing, and snowshoeing through the use of a special guided program. Contact: Community Prints, 3-64-3199. Free, preceptor required. Limited space. Info: 828-3202.

WOMEN'S DR. HILL Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences students raise \$10,000 through a 5K walk/run to benefit women's health and science education. Tickets from Library Burlington 2-02-3300. Free. Info: 828-3208.

MEET BUCKIN' JIM THE FRIENDLY PIRATE Knight, monkey! Participants will become the captain of the sea with music, games and activities. Sponsored by: Vermont 4-H. 10 to 13. Info: 828-3164. \$8.00.

MONTGOMERY & BROWNE WITH CHRISTINE "Tea, Tea & Tea" is for tea and coffee and tea and coffee and tea. Tickets from Library Burlington 71-23-3145. Free. Info: 828-3218.

STORY TIME & PLAYGROUP Engaging narratives give the gift of art, nature, music and energy. Author: Judith Double Library Winooski 71-23-3020. Info: 828-3218.

BOOK TIME FOR 3-TO-5-YEAR-OLDS Preschoolers can learn the joy of books through activities involving puppets and books. Sponsored by: Library Essex Junction 7-02-45. Info: 828-3158.

WINTER STORY TIME Kids can learn about seasonal topics and crafts with Mrs. Lucy from the Plaza Library 7-23-2204. Free. Info: 828-3182.

Lyrics

KNIGHT PLAYSHAW Little Knights learning to tame and驯服 their steeds. A together for everyone and professional trainers. Ages 3 to 6. Contact: Knights Castle 7-02-3199. Info: 828-3199.

SWIMMING Learn to swim from personal trainers during an evening of square dancing in a supportive environment. Contact: Emergency Poolside Burlington 3-64-3000. Info: 828-3180. \$15.00 plus level fees. 9 to 30 years. Info: 828-3180. For reservations info: 828-3180. Info: 828-3180.

Events

REVIEW: Under the direction of Vicki Vassila, Foster Daycare, the stage is set for a moving drama about the afternoon of a 1960 explosion at Utica's Canfield's徘徊 in a tragic mode. Info: 828-3144. Info: 828-3144.

SWIMMING Registration open for a plethora of pools. Swimming, diving, water polo, etc. Info: 828-3182.

PICTURE IN WRITING WORKSHOP Workshops that instill and inspire creative writing. Info: 828-3182.

WORKSHOPS Workshops for children and adults. Info: 828-3182. Info: 828-3182.

WINTER STORY TIME/SONG SONGS Songs/lyrics and lots of fun! Info: 828-3182.

WINTER STORY TIME/SONG SONGS Songs/lyrics and lots of fun! Info: 828-3182.

ESCAPE ONLINE TOOLKIT WORKSHOPS Escape rooms are the latest trend in escape rooms. Info: 828-3182.

PLACE IS POSSIBLY WORKSHOP In small groups, participants will learn how to use the Place is Possible program. Info: 828-3182.

NOT EVERYTHING NEEDS A CLASSIC PLAN Bill Root details the ways in which well-known stories can go off the beaten path. Authors and performers include: Edward Jones (Montpelier). \$7.00. Free, preceptor info: 828-3182.

agriculture

GREEN MOUNTAIN TABLE TOPPERS CLUB Bring players setting their tables in singles and doubles matches. Knights of Columbus. Located at 8-02-3199. Info: 828-3122. Info: 828-3122.

Events

FARMERS NIGHT SERIES: CALVIN-TRILLIUM The award-winning journalist, historian, and novelist, considers the present state of America — rural and urban. Info: 828-3182. Info: 828-3182.

GREEN MARSHAL The investment advisor and author of *Investment 101* considers the link between field crop diversity, human health, and climate change. Green Mountain Health and Education Center, Rutland. Tickets \$15. Info: 828-3122.

MAPS CONFER The author of *Map: The Story of the Map* and the first president of the National Geographic Society, the author of *American Legion Post 305* Winooski 7-30-14. Info: 828-3182.

Business

ORION DESERT CITIERS Vermont Stage Company presents *Orion Deserts* as a reminder that the desert is a place of beauty and resilience, a place where the plants, animals, and people who live there are inextricably linked. Info: 828-3182.

SPRING HARRIER: THE DRAMA Playing up where *War of the Worlds* failed, but not lost, action using puppets at the *String pup* culture. Phoenix Theatre, Burlington. 8 p.m. \$27.50. Info: 828-3182.

Books

BIG HOLE: DRILLS & CORKSCREW Just like the *Rocky* movie, readers share a nail and a hammer about John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. Located: *Rocky* movie, 828-3182. Info: 828-3182.

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THU. 30

agriculture

SEEDS 101 Green thumbs learn how to grow seeds. First stage of the three-part series. Info: 828-3182. Info: 828-3182.

VERMONT FARM SHOW See *WEDNESDAY* 11 a.m.

Events

MAGGIE LIZZIE: THANK GOODNESS IT'S *REHEARSAL* Vermont Stage Company. Info: 828-3182.

MAPS CONFER The author of *Map: The Story of the Map* and the first president of the National

SEVEN DAYS

ON AIR

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WEEKDAYS ON THE 30 & 5:30 p.m. WKEW-TV!

3
WCAW

dance

FLICKER Montshire College students show choreographic reflections of their personal experiences and universal emotions. Dance Theater Montshire, 100 Main St., Putney. \$10-\$12. 8 p.m. Free. Info: 802.343.3861

education

PERFORMING ARTS YEAR FAIR Students learn about service and learning opportunities, becoming volunteers and studying various South Burlington High School P-8. \$10 per person. Info: 802.862.7620

film

LAWRENCE OF ARABIA (1962) D: David Lean. 160 min. British Army officer T. E. Lawrence in David Lean's 1962 epic. Tickets \$10. Town Hall, Burlington. 7:30 p.m. Info: 802.860.1121

food & drink

EXTINCTION BURGER & BEERSTEIN

LEAVISON See 7daysvt.com

REBIRTH Sixty-second annual United Reliance Community Fund Banquet. This year's featured honoree is the *Woolly Beast*, host of *Woolly Beast* on 106.1 FM. Community Fund, 100 Main St., Burlington. 6 p.m. Info: 802.860.4300. United Space, Info: 802.860.3000

general

OPEN HOUSE CARE Physics of moving mass event featuring string theory. 10 a.m. Remond House, 100 Main St., Middlebury. 8:30 a.m. Info: 802.330.3321

Health & fitness

END INNOCENCE &

OPHTHALMICS WORKSHOP

Healthcare meets health

Healthcare discusses health

and health meets healthcare

to aging communities

Healthcare

Hunger Awareness 12-12 p.m.

Mongrel 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Free parking for all 2023-2024

event

COMMUNITY HUMMING CIRCLE Live

Wednesday evenings in Burlington

an evening of fun, music, pure intention,

space, silence and love. 7:30 p.m. Burlington. \$10-\$15. Details: Info: 802.860.6000

FORER, THE SAM-AH-SAM WORKOUT

Strength, muscle and movement

Music, movement and movement

</div

calendar

SAT 8:45-9:45

Arts

Open SAT Gym & Indoor Exercise Triple Threat Sat 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Indoor exercise and aerobics in a safe environment. \$8. Beginner to fit. Call 906-330-1000. *Registration: Elementary School Gymnasium, Bellmore High Academy, Bellmore, ID-T1 30 a.m.-4 p.m., info@elementaryteam.com*

play Date Sat: Theater In The Park Building a stage in a park, the theater in the park is a unique idea in a story teller. See more information and get details. *Briggs Open House, White River Junction, VT 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 716-388-3100, 716-388-3510, info@trp.org*

million play Go-Shop Takes up to age 5 bring a toy or game to trade or sell and get a new one. Sat 10 a.m.-4 p.m. *At the Mill, 100 Main St., Bellows Falls, VT 05237, info@millgo.com*

Salvation Army Triple Threat Young and campers bring supplies for disaster relief. Sales. *Wheeler Books, Brattleboro, VT 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 802-257-3320*

STBog says Over 3 Who Wants 3 Invites these patriotic people through the snow and gear up for the winter season with a thermal. *10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat 12/12, 13/12, 19/12, 26/12, 2/1/13, 9/1/13, 16/12/13, 23/12/13, 30/12/13, 6/1/14, 13/12/13*

polka Brattleboro Tunes 8-9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. *Brattleboro Tunes* *Joiners, Fennell, 10a Main St., Brattleboro, VT 05301, info@polkabrattleboro.com*

gloves Brattleboro Tunes 8-9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. *Brattleboro Tunes* *Joiners, Fennell, 10a Main St., Brattleboro, VT 05301, info@polkabrattleboro.com*

Adopt

Adopt **petfitte Dr** *Lathehouse* a small shop, introduces *petfitte* a pet fit for you. *petfitte* is a company of *My Pet* founders & documents *Lathehouse*. *Lathehouse* *Brattleboro, VT 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in store, using a man's voice, info@petfitte.com*

Health

Holiday Sat: See TUES 20-21 8-noon

Events

wide Gay Sammies *Accompanied by parent, wife, partner, the other as many as possible* *Brattleboro, VT 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat 12/14, 12/21, 12/28, 1/4/14, 1/11/14, 1/18/14, 1/25/14, 2/1/14, 2/8/14, 2/15/14, 2/22/14, 2/29/14, 3/7/14, 3/14/14, 3/21/14, 3/28/14, 4/4/14, 4/11/14, 4/18/14, 4/25/14, 5/2/14, 5/9/14, 5/16/14, 5/23/14, 5/30/14, 6/6/14, 6/13/14, 6/20/14, 6/27/14, 7/4/14, 7/11/14, 7/18/14, 7/25/14, 8/1/14, 8/8/14, 8/15/14, 8/22/14, 8/29/14, 9/5/14, 9/12/14, 9/19/14, 9/26/14, 10/3/14, 10/10/14, 10/17/14, 10/24/14, 10/31/14, 11/7/14, 11/14/14, 11/21/14, 11/28/14, 12/5/14, 12/12/14, 12/19/14, 12/26/14, 1/2/15, 1/9/15, 1/16/15, 1/23/15, 1/30/15, 2/6/15, 2/13/15, 2/20/15, 2/27/15, 3/6/15, 3/13/15, 3/20/15, 3/27/15, 4/3/15, 4/10/15, 4/17/15, 4/24/15, 4/31/15, 5/8/15, 5/15/15, 5/22/15, 5/29/15, 6/5/15, 6/12/15, 6/19/15, 6/26/15, 7/3/15, 7/10/15, 7/17/15, 7/24/15, 7/31/15, 8/7/15, 8/14/15, 8/21/15, 8/28/15, 9/4/15, 9/11/15, 9/18/15, 9/25/15, 10/2/15, 10/9/15, 10/16/15, 10/23/15, 10/30/15, 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Anhedonistic Anthem

Phosphorescent's Matthew Houck talks about his new album *Muchacho*

BY DAN BOLLES

At the end of a tour for his band's 2010 record *Here's to Tolking It*, Matthew Houck was beyond burned out. He had been touring almost constantly for nearly a decade, and the rhythms of life on the road had it only taken their toll. Houck had reached a crossroads with his music. Or rather, a dead end.

In a recent phone interview with *Seven Days*, Houck explains that he lost interest in music altogether and didn't put pen to paper to write a new song for close to two years.

"I didn't think I was ever going to make another Phosphorescent record," he says. "It turns out there's a word for that: anhedonia. That's a clinical term defined as an inability to experience pleasure in things one normally enjoys."

In 2012, Houck decided to give music one last go. He left his Brooklyn home and spent a week writing in Tolima, Mexico. There, he began writing a slate of songs that would serve as a core for his 2013 record, *Muchacho*. Those songs included a "New Anhedonia," an album chapter.

Muchacho has proven to be Phosphorescent's most successful album to date. It graced the year-end best-of lists of innumerable critics, including those at *Post*, who named it the best record of 2013. It's a beautifully lush and expansive record that

features some of Houck's most off-the-cuff and personal writing. And it almost never happened.

In advance of Phosphorescent playing Arribalzaga in Burlington on Monday, February 3, here's the rest of our conversation with Matthew Houck.

SEVEN DAYS: You covered Bob Dylan's *Toronto in a Long Time* [for an upcoming Valentine's Day comp for Stansback's Why choose that song?

MATTHEW HOUCK: I've been playing it on repeat for years now. And they asked for a live song, so it was a great chance to record it. It's a gorgeous song. It's a stunning piece of music, while lesser-known Dylan songs that I've loved for a lot of years.

SD: Your brief vacation in Mexico played a big role in the creation of *Muchacho* and helped get you back into songwriting. What's it something in the water?

MH: It was just a little writing retreat. A chance to get out of town and clear my thoughts, get out of my own life for a little while. My life in New York wasn't allowing me time to work on new music. So it was a chance to go see if I was going to keep writing and get a chance to make another Phosphorescent record.

SD: Prior to that, you had reached a crossroads with music and en-

thusiasm some of Houck's most off-the-cuff and personal writing. And it almost never happened.

YOU KEEP YOUR ANTENNAE OUT AND SEE IF THINGS FIND YOU AT THE RIGHT TIME.
YOU GET LUCKY, BASICALLY.

MATTHEW HOUCK

crossroads anhedonia. What's it about

SD: I think everybody hits points in their life where things can be rough. I didn't really know that word, anhedonia, until I was writing that song. And it kind of came through the process of writing. You keep your antennae out and see if things find you at the right time. You get lucky, basically. So that song really summed up a lot of rough stuff that was happening to me, the loss of enjoyment of a lot of things I'd always placed my faith in.

SD: So the narrative goes that the record became people like me who write about that stuff, has become that. *Muchacho* is a departure. But to my listeners with your older records, I see it more

music

SCAN THESE PAGES
WITH THE LATVAR APP
TO WATCH VIDEOS
OF THE ARTISTS
SEE PAGE 5



as a return, or a continuation. What do you think?

MH: I'm glad you said that. I see it the same way. I put out new records on a new, *To Wolfe* and *Here's to Tolking It* days, but for me, I felt like the departure. But as it turned out, those were the first records a lot of people heard. To me it was more of a return to what I had been doing for a while now. The other thing is that it was more successful recording than kinds of records. They were always an old record, but they weren't excited as well. The ideas, the electronic sounds, I guess you'll call them experimental sounds, they weren't as easily packaged or experienced.

SD: You've been doing your recording process as a sculpting.

MH: It's very similar. You're cutting away and it's taking little pockets where sound can go. And it's usually just me. We never have a band all playing together in the same room. So it takes a lot of time.

SD: So how do you go from that solitary setting to a much more communal experience, playing with a band live in concert?

MH: Well, the band right now is really, really good. In the past, I used to just throw a band together and play the songs however they sounded. And they would take on a new life and new sound. With this band, it's kind of the first time we're able to be true to the arrangements on the recordings. That's not to say they haven't changed. They do evolve, slowly. But it's nice to bring those sounds to life live.

SD: Given the success of *Muchacho*, do you feel any pressure for the next record?

MH: Not really. It's been a very good year. In the past, maybe two years ago after touring *Here's to Tolking It* Easy, I was really ready to get off the road, and I didn't think I was going to make another Phosphorescent record. This time, I'm really excited to get off the road and make another record. I'm feeling pretty inspired. ☺

INFO

Phosphorescent with Levman Monday, February 3, 9 p.m., at America's in Burlington. \$15. All.

soundbites

BY DAN BELLES



Dan Winter examining one of the first cars

Star-Spangled Soundbites

Well, folks, it's official. We're in the period of the calendar I've come to refer to as the Winter Doldrums. That's the time from roughly mid-January until, um, *um*, Valentine's Day — St. Patrick's Day in some years — when there just isn't a whole hell of a lot going on in the local music scene. Oh, sure, there are some highlights here and there **postponement** of *rescheduling* this Monday (February 4, entries to read: *Over the river* on the board on page 56 for more about that) but because the weather makes going out frequently a tough sell, truly notable shows are few. And because many artists use this time of the year to write and record, the stream of grassroots local albums tends to slow to a trickle.

However, the Winter Doldrums also affords us a chance to engage in one of my favorite down-time activities

fucking around. So on that note, I present a soundbitten and scattershot column of Soundbites, only partially inspired by my creeping cabin fever. Buckle up.

Last Friday, January 24, soundbites.com announced via Twitter that she would be singing the national anthem at this year's Pro Bowl, the NFL's all-star exhibition that took place Sunday, January 26, in Honolulu. Even being an avid sports fan, I never, ever would have given the local angle I'd paid it that year. (Look, I've spent the past 16 Sundays — and occasional Thursdays and Mondays — watching football, and I'm still burned about my beloved Patriots losing in the playoffs last week. It just

...too soon. Also, *The Godfather: Part II* was on. I know it was you, Fredo. You broke my heart.)

Anyway, I did catch her performance on YouTube the next day, and I gotta say Grace did a commendable rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner." That's a tough, tough song to sing. For one thing, it requires a range of one and a half octaves — far the thinnest illustrates, that's a lot — including some gnarly interval jumps. Also, because it's so often sung as a prelude to huge national events, it's because an opportunity for egomaniac singers to show off, most often leading to adulation, cringe-worthy caravanning at the climactic third. So much so that one of the most heavily weighted prep bars for the Super Bowl is the over/under on how long the national anthem will be.

To her credit, Potter clocked in at just under two minutes, which is about average. By comparison, *success* won't break the fabled 2:34 mark at last year's Super Bowl, which was sort of like Roger Bannister running the first sub-four-minute mile, astonishing. And Grace kept the bonitoines to minimum, save for some toothful ornamental winks. I'd say she done Vermont proud. Also, it was kinda fun to see her quarterback *own* *previews* mouthing the lyrics with Potter's voice coming out.

Continuing on the national beat we've robustly *Bert* of

March like the Pro Bowl, I almost never watch the Grammys, which also took place Sunday. I don't think one about most of the artists nominated, and I usually find the voting by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences to be a bit out of touch — though I'll admit they've been getting incrementally better on that score in recent years.

Anyway, two Vermontish acts were nominated for shiny little statuettes this year: **HAIR** came for Best Alternative Music Album and **REGGAE ROLL** — fronted by VT expat **CECIL WOODBURY** — for Best Bluegrass Album. Sadly, neither won.

Case lost to *WAVY GRavy*. I've

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JOHNNY WINTER

JANUARY

12/31 **JOHNNY WINTER**
NEW POLITICS
INNOCENT MAN/SHIPWRECK

1/1 **THE MACHINE**
IN A DILLY DILLY/CONCERT PREVIEW

1/15 **YARN**
NITE FOLLY/TRAIA

FEBRUARY

1/24 **JOHNNY WINTER**
SUB PUNCH/LED ZEPPELIN/THIN LIZZY

1/26 **MAX CREEK**

1/27 **HUEY MACK**
D WYATT/TIMMY D

1/28 **PARTICLE**
JOHNTONE & THE JON

1/29 **EMANCIPATOR**
OOSA/REAL/BLAKIC

1/31 **FIRST FRIDAY**
ANTIF/OLLI LEHTO/PRINCIPLES

2/1 **LOTUS LAND: A TRIBUTE TO RUSH**

2/1 **BETH ORTON**
THE BUMBLE BEEFS

2/4 **AER**
ELEGANT NEW BORN FUND

2/4 **PAPER DIAMOND**
LEO BPP/CEAT & JONES

2/11 **WILD CLUB**
BLVDS

2/14 **WINTER IS A DRAG BALL**

2/15 **JOE PLUG**
DAVID X RIBEREZ

2/15 **BIG GIGANTIC**
GET DOWN/BLK/ART THIEVES

2/16 **RAILROAD EARTH**
THE BALLOON THIEVES

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WED. 29

burlington area

CLUB HISTORIQUE *Mélange Friends* (adults) 9 p.m. \$10THE DAILY PLANET *Robot Rap* (adults) 9 p.m. \$10FRANZY B'S *Acoustic 3/26/10* 9 p.m. \$10HALO/GRANGE *Funhouse/Kanarie* (ages 18+) 9 p.m. FreeKLAUS/WHITEY & THE CO. *Whitey with DJ Doug (House)* (adults) 10 p.m. FreeMOTHER SHAG/THREEPEACE/LOUNGE *Three* (ages 18+) 10 p.m. \$10. \$5. \$4JP-ELP *Fun Quarters (Glow Session)* 7 p.m. Free

Karaoke (adults) 10 p.m. Free

JUNIPER AT HOTEL VERMONT *Ray Vaughan Band* (adults) 7 p.m. FreeLAUGH & SHOUT & LAUGH *Fast Asleep/Cycle Stunts* (adults) 7 p.m. FreeMANHATTAN PIZZA & PUB *Open Mic with Family* (ages 10-12) 7 p.m. FreeMORNING BIRDS *Mountain Music* (adults) 7 p.m. \$10NEETAR & VETTA *A Jaded Comedy Open Mic* (adults) 7 p.m. \$10THE PINEAPPLES *Mountain Days* (ages 18+) 7 p.m. \$10. \$5. \$4THE TAP BAR & GRILL *David Jarmie/Cotton Coda* (ages 18+) 7 p.m. FreeKABIN BEAN *John Edwards & Jim* (ages 18+) 8 p.m. FreeRED SUGAR *Smashmouth/Monster Mouth* (adults) 7 p.m. \$10. \$5. \$4SKINNY PANGAS *Just Fools* (adults) 8 p.m. FreeSPRINGFIELD *Open Mic* (adults) 8 p.m. Free

central

BAUDOT *Jason Wittenberg* (adults) 8 p.m. \$10GREEN MOUNTAIN EVEREN *Open Mic w/ B-Jade* (adults) 7 p.m. FreeSKINNY PANGAS *Just Fools* (adults) 8 p.m. FreeSPRINGFIELD *Open Mic* (adults) 8 p.m. FreeSWEET MELISSA'S *White Queen* (adults) 8 p.m. \$10. \$5. \$4THE TAP BAR & GRILL *John Johnson (Acoustic)* (adults) 7 p.m. \$10TWO BROTHERS TAVERN *Downright, Power, Free* (adults) 7 p.m. Free

champlain valley

CITY LIMITS *Knowles with Let It Rock* (adults) 8 p.m. FreeON THE RISE BURG *John Johnson (Acoustic)* (adults) 7:30 p.m. \$10THE SKYLINE TAVERN *Downright, Power, Free* (adults) 7 p.m. Free

northern

THE YARD *Abby Sherman (Acoustic/Singer)* 7:30 p.m. \$10HOBNOB & PLACE *Live Music* 8 p.m. FreePARADES *PMG* (Travis Knight, 7 p.m. Free)PIRANHA *Travis Knight, 7 p.m. Free*

regional

HOBNOB & PLACE *Open Mic* 8 p.m. FreeOLIVE BOLEY'S *Elton John (Acoustic)* 9 p.m. \$10

pops

THU. 30

burlington area

CLUB HISTORIQUE *Thirsty Thursdays/A Great Life* (adults) 7:30 p.m. \$10THE DAILY PLANET *Janis Joplin (Acoustic jazz)* 8 p.m. FreeGRIMM YEA *Karen Depp (jazz)* 8 p.m. FreeFORGOTTEN & PUNK *Greg Michael (jazz)* 8 p.m. FreeTHURSTON O'S *Thirsty Thursdays* 8 p.m. FreeHALO/GRANGE *Half & Half/Coldplay (Glow)* 8 p.m. FreeMANHATTAN PIZZA & PUB *Wave of the Future* (adults) 8 p.m. FreeNEETAR & VETTA *White Comedy Open Mic* 8 p.m. FreeTHE PINEAPPLES *Mountain Days* 7 p.m. \$10. \$5. \$4THE TAP BAR & GRILL *David Jarmie/Cotton Coda* 7 p.m. FreeJP-ELP *Fun Quarters (Glow Session)* 7 p.m. FreeKABIN BEAN *John Edwards & Jim* 8 p.m. FreeRED SUGAR *Smashmouth/Monster Mouth* (adults) 7 p.m. \$10SKINNY PANGAS *Just Fools* 8 p.m. FreeSPRINGFIELD *Open Mic* (adults) 8 p.m. FreeTHE TAP BAR & GRILL *The House Racers (Glow)* 8 p.m. FreeJP-ELP *Fun Quarters (Glow)* 8 p.m. FreeKABIN BEAN *John Edwards & Jim* 8 p.m. FreeRED SUGAR *Smashmouth/Monster Mouth* (adults) 8 p.m. \$10SKINNY PANGAS *Just Fools* 8 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soundbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 51



never been a big VW fan, but even I'll admit that *Modern Vampire of the City* was a great record. I thought Case's The Morse Thing got the *Harder I Play*, the *Harder I Play* the *More I Love You*, while depressing as all hell, was better. But I got the decision. Meanwhile, Delta Rae came up short against the **HELL MONEY BAND**, who are, well, the fucking *Delta McCrary Band*. No shame there.

My only other real Grammy qualifiable omission – it was **BRAD'S "He's the" MORRIS WINNING THE BEST COUNTRY SONG PERFORMANCE** for his version of *BRAD'S COUNTRY SONG'S* "Wagon Wheel." Not so much because I think it was underdeserving. Rather, given that song all the *Bluegrass* classiness it deserves, it's more because "Wagon Wheel" has become the crutch of every powdery, hacky American band on the planet. ("OK, guys! We're gonna need a little help from the crowd, and one!" It needs to stop.

So, by the power vested in me, I hereby decree that it shall henceforth

be unlawful in any Vermont performing space, public or otherwise, to perform in "Wagon Wheel" or any part thereof, unless you actually are Old Crow Medicine Show or, I suppose, Duran Duran.

Closer to home, the folks at Signal Kitchen announced via press release last week that the club/radio will be suspending its doors to live shows in the coming weeks. Recently, the venue has directed its efforts to booking in partnership with the ever-asexual *Artistlife* while it renovated its basement space. The release was short on specifics except to say, "We've changed a bit." Good to know!

Look for more details on that or next week's calendar. In the meantime, mark your calendar for the club's grand reopening weekend with a pair of free shows on Friday, February 7, and Saturday, February 8, at **BLUESY THE CHIEF AND PRINCIPAL BEAR**.



Meanwhile, in Montpelier, here's a show that might fly under most folks' radar: This Sunday, February 3, local trio **SHAMBALLA** will play a rare gig at the Montpelierian Sherry Pancake. For the uninitiated, the group features three of the area's top American talents, including award-winning songwriter **CAROL HANNAH**, multi-instrumentalist and recording engineer extraordinaire **COLIN MCFARRELL**, and **DANNY CRANE**, who, in addition to fronting rockabilly stalwarts the **CAVALIER HORSES**, is widely regarded as one of Vermont's finest bluesgrass banjo players. Like you really wanted to watch the Super Bowl anyway?

Just wait until next Saturday, February 11, Club Mcrasen in Burlington plays host to the third annual Rock Vermont. The show is a benefit for Garf's Rock Vermont, a trekking summer day camp aimed at teaching aspiring young female rockers to climb the inner **WOMAN**. And just what will the hill be a rock climb, exactly? Glad you asked!

That morning, the masses of 25 local musicians, regardless of gender identity, will be tested in a hot tub and then drawn at random to create new, never-before-seen bands. Those bands will then scurry away to work on a fast song set to be performed at the Mcrasen showcase that night. The results will be...well, totally unpredictable, which is the whole point. There could be ten wobblers, there could be two knockout performances. Either way, it should be a fun show, and you'd be hard-pressed to come up with a better local cause. ☺



SUNDAYS

BLUEGRASS BRUNCH 10:30am (Sherry)
IMPROV COMEDY 7pm (Sherry)
SHAMBALLA w/ CAROL HANNAH,
COLIN MCFARRELL & DANNY CRANE
(Montpelier)



MONDAYS

KICK MUSIC

w/ RANDY HALL

11am (Sherry)

WEDNESDAYS
READY HUMP DAY! 10:30am (Sherry)
10:30am (Sherry)
JOSH PARNELL'S ADDICTIVE SOUL
NIGHT 9pm (Sherry)
CAJUN JAM w/ JAY DOOS,
KATE TRAULIE & FRIENDS 9pm (Monty)



THURSDAYS

ZACK MUGENT 7pm (Sherry)



FRIDAYS! Cheese or Chocolate (Sherry)
EVGEN & BUD ADVENTURE
8pm Fri (Sherry)

10 Lake St. Burlington 05401-2800
14 Pine Street, Montpelier 05630-2344
Burlington 860-864-1000



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101.9 THE KAREN MORGAN SHOW

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REVIEW this

Steph Pappas Experience, *Jellyfish*

JOURNALIST, CO. DIGITAL DOWNLOAD



Steph Pappas has been around the Burlington music scene for as long, if not longer, than she's been here. This writer has memories of seeing her name on second show posters back in the 1980s, which was roughly a decade after she started rocking in Vermont. Pappas is a guitar, quickly plucking her trusty and pumping out second after second – at least now, by our count, and probably more – whether solo, with her all-female band

Miss Blue in the 1980s or, most recently, as Steph Pappas Experience. Come to think of it, "guitar" is the wrong word for the self-described "psychobabe country chick"! As 89.1's own record, *Jellyfish*, indicates, very little is queer about Steph Pappas.

Her latest opens with an ear-rattling falsetto on the title cut. From a steady stew of distortion, electric blues guitars, Pappas unleashes a wistful, mawing howl. It's jolting, but, first, a hide-pulling 'tis-the-oddly hypnotic and surreal as a warning shot across our collective bow. Pappas isn't arringing around. Well, until she is.

The next track, "Brute for Bear," is another blues-rock. Pappas has taken to calling herself "The Hendrix's baby sister." Like her adoption of the term "experience," it's a reference to her impressive guitar chops and willingness to point with a psychobabe palette. But, judging from this song and its lone, cranny riffs and mawkish attitude, perhaps she's more like Jack. What's long lost.

"Energy" is a redux of a 2013 single, which was originally presented as jumpin-

up psychobabe rock. Spicier and slosh, the new version sounds more psychobabe-Western. If Jack had grown up in the barren expanse of the American Southwest instead of the barren expanse of Isthmus, it might sound something like this:

"Doin' 'Doin'" presented with only guitar, drums and vox, is sonically the most straightforward of the album's 10 cuts. It's also the most direct lyrically, centring on a friend who is retreating from life, "drifting and drinking." Given the abundance of sound found elsewhere on the record – in formica, nine additional players on everything from bass and drums to sitar loops and didgeridoo – the song's unaccompanied track is refreshing and a reminder that Pappas is a sturdy songwriter, whether backed by a wall of noise or just her acoustic guitar.

Jellyfish by Steph Pappas Experience is available at cd Baby.com.

DAN ROLLIES



James Kochalka Superstar, 4-Track Egomaniac

[JELLYFISH BAND/CDN/CDN/CDN]

In early January this year, James Kochalka Superstar released a curious recording in truth, virtually everything Kochalka does, from music to ramblings, is curious in varying degrees. So to term his latest release as such is really saying something. The record, *4-Track Egomaniac*, is a re-release of a cassette album originally put out in a very limited run in 1995. It features Kochalka on vox and long-time bandmate Jason Conley as well, everything else. And it's interesting on a number of levels. For starters, it presents an uncut and untriaised, caught-on-a-development-period-as-of-2013 of Burlington's most celebrated, unapologetic and, at times, derriere artists. It's a unique look at some of his early musical explorations and, as such, is something of a must-have for serious fans and Kochalka completists. Alas, it's fucking meek. Over the years, JK3 have morphed in and out of a variety of styles and formations, from the cheeky punkabilian of their major-label work (*One Man Believes*, Rykodisc, 2008), to his chipper riffs of the likes of the *Game Boy Advance* sound card (Digital JK, 2009) to some, sketchy

dozen pop (*Get the Sheet*, 1994) and, most recently, back toward to-musicbox rock and roll on last year's *Scorched Man* 7" reching disc. *4-Track Egomaniac* provides the buyout thread that ties all of that varied, often-cryptic experiments together. Regardless of the surrounding sonic aesthetic, Kochalka's work always always bears certain traits, including, but not necessarily limited to, sophomore-junior rudimentary silliness, crude sexual and bathroom humor, clever hints at rock and pop iconography, and a perverse, albeit playful, sense of arrested development. All of these characteristics can be found in *4-Track Egomaniac*.

On album opener "Join My Band," the only song recorded for the cassette, Kochalka sings in his trademark strained warble, "Take my hand / Join my band / We'll go places / Where no one has been / I will sing / And you play the instruments / And we'll go places / Where no one has been band." And that's it. The whole song clocks in at 16 seconds. And yet it almost seems emblematic of everything Kochalka

has written since. It's typically strange, yet oddly sweet.

The rest of the album is, as Kochalka himself rightly describes, "all very rough and tumble." "Sun Summer" is an auto-tuned jam. ("The summer sun is like a lemon / Squashed into my eye.") Alternating between sludge metal and banzy acoustic pop, "Rock Will Never Die" suggests a schizo-psychedelic Massiah complex. ("Rock and roll will never die / As long as I am alive.") "Hanon Shit," "Bathroom Buddies" and "Peecher Boys" introduce his long-standing affinity for adolescent humor and dick jokes. Hell, he even goes political, in his own music way on "Hegel doesn't stink" and "I'm the shitz" ("I'm the shitz of Iran / I live in a garbage can / I am the man").

4-Track Egomaniac will win you any new converts to the cult of Kochalka. Not those already in the fold should be thrilled at the prospect of rifling through the dancing skeletons in JK3's closet. What they'll find is weird, wacky and, if you're of a mind for it, lots of fun. In other words, seasonal Kochalka.

4-Track Egomaniac by James Kochalka Superstar is available at jameskochalkaband.com.

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Ruthie Foster & Eric Bibb in Concert Together Thanks for the Joy

Friday February 2, 7:30 PM



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Dealer's Choice

"Full House," Chaffee Downtown

At the Chaffee Downtown gallery, the fourth annual "Full House" exhibition features 18 local artists. The card game referenced by the show's name is not one of strategy but of artistic choice. The Chaffee is open with a made hand of artists Peter Lundberg, Skip Martin, Joshua Rome, Brigitte Rausenberg and Christian (Kraig) T. Waller. Four comfortable chairs surround a table near the back of the gallery; viewers might consider sitting down and taking the time to look.

Rausenberg's collages on fabric collages draw viewers in close. Described by the artist as "paper quilts," her work is collages, quilts and pictures in one. "Women have endlessly occupied themselves in their beds with detail,"

Rausenberg says in her artist statement, "which led them to become 'quilters' by nature, putting small things together for the purpose of creating a larger one." Her needle-pointed precision is intricate. Postage-stamp-size drawings – ink on tiny pieces of sullied – are partially attached to board, creating a layered texture. The drawings themselves consist of cross-hatches, geometric designs, flowers, trees and numerous abstractions. Collaged together, they form a larger image.

In Rausenberg's largest collages, "Elegance" (16 by 24 inches) and "The Wedding Quilt" (20 by 27.5 inches), hundreds of drawings compose the image. "The Wedding Quilt" evokes the classic motif of interlocking rings, known in quilts as the Double Wedding Ring pattern.

Martin's digital color photography is straightforward documentation of the natural world, such as a long shot dryland in "Golden Aspens" (10 by 15 inches), or silk captured in "A Dance."

As a boy, Martin spent summers wandering the Ozarks, treasuring "the peace of wild places and the wonders that nature revealed." He writes in an artist statement. "Photos captured those little happy times we can never relive." Having inherited his father's camera, Martin continues to share those moments, taking moments in the natural world, connecting viewers to his experience and their own. "Market Day" (5 by 12 inches) results in the beauty of geometry as displayed by a mountainous landscape.



"Ambivalence" by Peter Lundberg

Mood and narrative elevate Joshua Rome's woodblock prints, such as the 15-by-9-inch "Market Day," a portrait of a man with a bundle on his back peaking an empty early or the dark, mesmeric palette of "Moonlight on the Water."

(11 by 10 inches). At the age of 21, Rome planned to study Japanese calligraphy, according to his biography, but an appreciation for color and paper in woodblock prints claimed his interest. He did Japan! Rome apprenticed with Aus-



"One for the Ladies" by Joshua Rome



"Apostle" by Skip Martin



"Mysteries of the Westside" by Brigitte Rausenberg

tern-born, Japanese-style woodblock artist Gishin Kubo and lived for more than 20 years in the mountains outside Kyoto, documenting the lives of his fellow refugees using the traditional printing technique.

REVIEW



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NEW PLAYS/PLAYERS

THE LEGEND OF HANNAH The ancient Greek legend of the Trojan War is the backdrop for this new play, which follows the story of a woman who has many secrets and her place in the years since. **POST POSITION** (2012) Director: David Rabe. Cast: Jennifer Ehle, David Rabe, Michael Cerveris, and Scott Shepherd. **REVIEW** (PG-13) **2012**

LONE SURVIVOR (2013) Director: Peter Berg. Cast: SEAL team hero Chris Kyle (Mark Wahlberg), Marcus Luttrell (Taylor Kitsch), Dakota Goyo (Lorelei Linklater), and others. **REVIEW** (R) **2013**

HANNIBAL: LEONINE INFERNO (2013) Director: Guillermo del Toro. Cast: Hugh Dancy, Hugh Jackman, Mads Mikkelsen, and others. **REVIEW** (R) **2013**

THE MHT: BRAIN (2013) Director: Bill Nye. Cast: Bill Nye, Michael Caine, and others. **REVIEW** (PG-13) **2013**

PAKISTANI ACTIVITY: THE HUMMING CHICKEN (2013) Writer: Ravi Patel. Director: Ravi Patel. Cast: Ravi Patel, Nisha Patel, and others. **REVIEW** (PG-13) **2013**

PROHIBITION (2013) (Theatrical release) Director: John Goodman. Cast: John Goodman, Diane Kruger, and others. **REVIEW** (R) **2013**

THE FIFTH ELEMENT (2013) Director: Luc Besson. Cast: Bruce Willis, Milla Jovovich, and others. **REVIEW** (PG-13) **2013**

AMERICAN HUSTLE (2013) (Action-comedy) Director: David O'Russell. Cast: Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Jennifer Lawrence, and others. **REVIEW** (R) **2013**

WHITE HOUSE DOWN (2013) Director: Roland Emmerich. Cast: Channing Tatum, Jamie Foxx, and others. **REVIEW** (PG-13) **2013**

MOVIES YOU MISSED & MORE

BY MARGOT HARRISON



The Square

By Margot Harrison | Let's talk about some nominees that never reached our theaters.

That includes at least one of the potential Best Documentaries: *The Act of Killing* (and the Oscar-buzzing *What the Hell* this week). **MYTH: The Square** (The fifth nominee

SAVING MR. BANKS (2013) Director: John Lee Hancock. Cast: Meryl Streep, Emma Thompson, and others. **REVIEW** (PG-13) **2013**

THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY (2013) Director: Steve Carell. Cast: Steve Carell, and others. **REVIEW** (PG-13) **2013**

THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (2013) Director: Martin Scorsese. Cast: Leonardo DiCaprio, Jonah Hill, and others. **REVIEW** (R) **2013**

NEW ON VIDEO

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS (2013) Director: Phil Lord and Christopher Miller. Cast: Bill Hader, Anna Kendrick, and others. **REVIEW** (PG) **2013**

THE FIFTH ELEMENT (2013) Director: Luc Besson. Cast: Bruce Willis, Milla Jovovich, and others. **REVIEW** (PG-13) **2013**

AMERICAN PREY: BAR GRANDPA (2013) Director: Michael Moore. Cast: Michael Moore, and others. **REVIEW** (PG-13) **2013**

THE FIFTH ELEMENT (2013) Director: Luc Besson. Cast: Bruce Willis, Milla Jovovich, and others. **REVIEW** (PG-13) **2013**

AMERICAN HUSTLE (2013) Director: David O'Russell. Cast: Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Jennifer Lawrence, and others. **REVIEW** (R) **2013**

WHITE HOUSE DOWN (2013) Director: Roland Emmerich. Cast: Channing Tatum, Jamie Foxx, and others. **REVIEW** (PG-13) **2013**

20 Best Film Directors, played at the Roxy and now...)

You already know the story, or maybe you first knew it from classic footage on CNN and YouTube. In early 2011, activists filled Cairo's Tahrir Square to protest the military-backed rule of president Hosni Mubarak. He was forced to step down, to be replaced in 2012 by elected Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Morsi, who was in turn ousted last summer after liberal demonstrators protested his abuse of power.

That's where this documentary from Julian Nasrallah (*The Control Room*) stops, but the story is, of course, far from over.

Movie You Missed & More appears on the Live Culture blog on Fridays. Look for reviews and other posts about movies and more.



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Pregnancy is so much more than just your due date.

The providers at Central Vermont Women's Health know that every step on your path to childbirth is an important one and that a healthy pregnancy starts before conception.

It's a great idea to get a medical checkup before getting pregnant to make sure your body is ready to have a baby.

We'll talk together about

- your family history
- medicines you take – including herbs
- whether your vaccinations are up-to-date
- medical conditions you have, like diabetes or high blood pressure.

Here are 9 things to do before getting pregnant:

- Plan when you want to have a baby.
- Use reliable birth control until then.
- Take a daily multivitamin with 400 micrograms of folic acid to help reduce the risk of neural tube birth defects.
- Stop smoking, drinking alcohol and taking illegal drugs.
- Get a medical checkup.
- Eat healthy and get to your optimal weight.
- Do something active every day.
- Avoid exposure to harmful substances.
- Learn to manage your stress.

There is nothing more important to us than your health and the health of your baby.

Please call 371-5961 to schedule a time for us to get together. My partners and I look forward to meeting you to talk about your plans to grow your family.

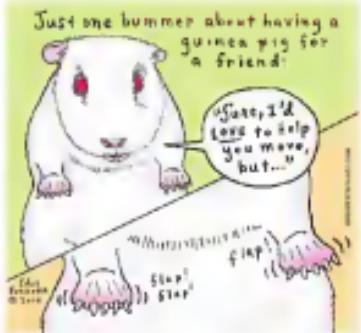
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fun stuff

MORE FUN! STRAIGHT DOPE (P27) CROSSWORD (PC 5) & CALCONU & SUDOKU (PC 7)

THE EVERETTE



LULU EIGHTBALL

NETFLIX CATEGORIES



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САКОТА МСГАДЗЕАН



JEN SORRENSON



1. Free.

THE daily 7
America's top stories for today

Shows signs to nominate a business
based off local names derived up
to name coined by Steven Stipe

安利进取精英团队

RED MEAT

barely discernible
corporal bovine seige

Drawn from issues of
MAX CANNON

It's been ten days of the healthiest dry
vacation in absolutely ever. My first chance
to savor every glorious muscle twister

WHEEEEEE!!

Seven god, I wish I could leave this singular
carnival of torment. I have company, though.



Jack O'Connell
In the very best
I could find.
Taste.

THE
BLIND DATE



SO, MY FRIENDS
TELL ME YOU'RE
IN ART. I'M IN
AUTOMOTIVE.

THIS MODERN WORLD

IF THE WORLD SUPPLIED 200,000
PEOPLE WITH PISTOLS BY YER
CIGARETTE, IT WOULD BE A NATIONAL
EMERGENCY.

WE WILL ADDRESS THIS CRISIS WITH
EVERY RESOURCE AT OUR DISPOSAL.
WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO USE
WATER WHEN IT IS PRESCRIBED BY ANY
COURT!

MR. PLEASE
STOP TALKING
ABOUT
THESE
PROBLEMS.
UNQUOTE
PORTFOLIO
HOTLINE.

SHOOTING UNARMED
PEOPLE, WHETHER NEW SECURITY
MEASURES WERE BURNED MY LAMP
ARMING, CAUGHT HAVING NEAR A
DELEGATION OR PRODUCING AN
A RIVERBANK WILL BE SUBJECT
TO IMMEDIATE ARREST!

SHOOTING
THREE TIMES BREATHED
THREE TIMES BREATHED

by TOM TOMORROW

A DAY OR TWO AGO, BUSINESS
WORLD SAID WE NEEDED TO
BURN SOMETHING.

NOW, HOW ABOUT: THEY'RE BE A
DISH TERRIBLE?

SHOOTING
THREE TIMES BREATHED
THREE TIMES BREATHED

SHOOTING
THREE TIMES BREATHED
THREE TIMES BREATHED

THE CAPABLE OF CRIMINAL
ACTS ARE INDIVIDUALS.

THEY ARE NOT GROUPS OR LEADS
MORE MEMBERS—WE ARE GOING
TO KEEP THEM SAFE, ANXIETY TIME!

HAHAHA!
ALSO, WE ARE GOING
TO KEEP THEM SHAMMEL, JUST BECAUSE

AND OF COURSE, DOUBLE HEDGES WOULD
BE A MUST. JUST IN CASE.

DO YOU SEE, WATER IS TWO HEADS
OVERBURN AND ONE PART OVERBURN

OVERBURDENED AND YOU SAY IT'S
ONE HEAD OVERBURDENED, WHICH
ED ME, I KNEW IT!

THESE YOU HAVE TO THE
OVERBURDENED OVERBURDENED

BUT THREE, A CORPORATION IS
TO THE OVERBURDENED OVERBURDENED

SO, STUFF HAPPENED, WHAT CAN
YOU DO?

NO POINT IN GOING
OVER SPILLED MILKSHAKES—
OVERBURDENED OVERBURDENED
THAT'S WHAT'S ALWAYS
HAPPENED.

SO, STUFF HAPPENED, WHAT CAN
YOU DO?

THEY ARE GOING
TO KEEP THEM SHAMMEL, JUST BECAUSE

THEY ARE GOING
TO KEEP THEM SHAMMEL, JUST BECAUSE

THEY ARE GOING
TO KEEP THEM SHAMMEL, JUST BECAUSE

ELF CAT

A CARTOON STRIP BY
JAMES KOCHALKA

(CHARACTERISTICS OF YESTERDAY)

©2011

You're scared
of GIRLS?

No,

Give me
time.



But you
just said—
shush.

WER—WER
YOU SPOOKED
OF ME?

PEEET

I say
a LOT
of things

Because I'M
a girl, you know!

Wait... really?

OF COURSE
I am

Don't you
think I'm
PRETTY?

I thought
YOU WERE
A MAGIC
TENNIS BALL.

EET
Cat!



THE END?



Aquarius

Jan 20-Feb 18

Enticing ways because irresistible for a while in 18th-century England. They could soar as high as the clouds above a woman's head. Collections of short lengths snipped in the mass of hair, along with small replicas of perfumes, handkerchiefs, shreds of brocade, lace and small shapes. I would love to see you wear something like that in the coming weeks. But if this seems too extreme, here's a second-best option: Make your face and head hair as soft as possible. Use your alluring grace and confident bearing to attract more of the attention and recognition you need. You have a positive karma to be attractive and more charismatic than usual.

aspect an equally momentous chart is possible for you. Some advice you have received for a long time, since you have stayed at it even in逆境, is ripe to be broken.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Psychological Counselor Katherine who uses a Robot Apps in her business says that consulting experts is very beneficial. In this study of 400 client trends, 70 percent of their service was not broken down into termination dates, but by a client's age. For example, a 20-year-old patient with strong T-cell activity and a 200-year-old patient with weaker results. He found that patients' ages by position and treatment professionals are closer to their patients. So does this mean you should never leave age experts? Not. But it's important to approach them with these approaches right now. The time has come for you to upgrade your trust in your constitution.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) I'm a big fan of stage and screen, and I urge you to be. Using your talents need to understand your expression is a very good thing. The less stock you put in superstitious horoscopes and star-based beliefs, the smoother you will be. Having said that, I recommend that you start making use of your creative energies. That means the constantly changing elements of your expression line. Pay attention to your dreams. Imagine in the pictures of your heart, and see yourself as a positive hero in a tale, a divine one. Mardi Gras is the day that the vacation and the celebration approaches are essential to your health. But the more vacation needs you have in the coming weeks.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Sorry, Cancer, you won't be able to transform lead into gold or pristine. You won't suddenly begin to use the incomparable power to heal the core minds of words and interpretations. Nor will you be able to craft an effective line spent on a long column who has always resisted your charms. That's the last news. The good news is this: If you start an interesting text, spectacular magic you could accomplish minor miracles. For example, you might diminish an adversary's ability to dismiss you. You could entice your mate into a season of love you have yearned or underestimated. And you may be able to

discover a secret you had from your past a long time ago.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Catastrophic misadventures for offering tips on how to spent up your life. Heirs. For example, take a few of your favoritecretically appealing flavor combinations, like peanut butter and honey or whipped cream and chocolate sauce, and never eat them again. "I'm not a good person," they would reply to you. "I'm not a good person." In my case, I remember that a client always advised me that especially in the coming days, it's true that on some occasions, it's better and more useful to have a rule to play by, rather than to be flexible. But they aren't, obviously, right now. For best results, be sensible and consider the past and present and past. Togetherness will bring an elegant caperment and grace to all.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You are not in control in any way that you are. Your results aren't in determining as you have imagined. You are not in control of your life. Be rather let me put it at this stage. Life will determine so much as it does — and not just in some small but terrible way either. The evidence is all over, but will be refined and unpredictable, but here's my question: Will you be so attached to your past that you refuse to even let me capture the dramatic picture you are offered? I hope not!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Research results, which is poem called "Swans in a Cloud of Light" and follows this language: According to my astrological analysis and poetic intuition, you will perceive the exact power you need in the coming weeks by improving your imagination with a vision of inward instead of outward. I don't want to get too didactic about the reasons why, but I will say this: The visual of light represents your noble purpose or your sacred aspiration. The swans is a metaphor to symbolize the new beauty you will create as you implement the next step of your noble purpose or sacred aspiration.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Every autumn, the best species known as the Clark's nutcracker begins to do its winter food储藏 by carrying 30,000 one-millimeter 3,000 pieces over a 16-square-mile area. The amazing

thing is that it remembers where exactly all of them are. Your memory bank is preprogrammed, but it's far from being the only one. And once you will use it to the best in the coming days, your spawning abilities will be highly effective if you show up on the season's great wild events — especially those events that foreshadow the timeline you will soon be playing through.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Can you imagine how it would be like to live without any ruling and preference? How would you feel? If you could mix into total honesty what Type was best to my reality what you mean? Unconcerned by the forecast, to bring the bleak angle is to seek out complications? Such a pure and equal condition is almost ideal for anyone to accomplish, of course, but you have it now, in according the new best thing in the evening news. For best results, don't try to be perfectly cordial and utterly unimplied. Aim for 78 percent.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) It's a wise time to gather up resources and invest, buying and selling and collecting sets of trade information. I want you to gently if you have ongoing exactly what you need in order to turn over a new leaf and doing, in fact, I think it's fine if you step up for more than what you can immediately use — because right now is a favorable time to prepare for fall renovations, which you will want to do on an accelerated basis if possible, because buying, keeping and losing information.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) One of your smiley models. In the coming weeks is the character that, Pesci's own Arionta perhaps, when she sings in Eminem's tune "Lose The Way You Lie." Study the following lyrics, written by Eminem, and note that, as every song you can imagine an psychological, spiritual and interpersonal levels you probably the most opposite as the attitude they express: "You just gonna stand there and watch me burn / But that's all right because I got the way I want." You are going to stand there and hear me sing you? But that's all right, because I have the way you do? To remember: Pesci need all situations that would bring you back and tell the that.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) On my 50th birthday, I finally figured out that eating every product with the cause of any chronic respiratory problems. From that day forward I decided to make those cuts risk. My health improved. I kept up this regimen for years, but a health tip I received a year ago has still made some sense. Just, for the last six, I began eating probiotics to gorge on a tub of organic vanilla yogurt. To my shock, there was no extra fat. I have been at this, in the last few weeks. I have resisted regularly on all the new goodies for fear of losing. I bring this up just because it

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"Love, George's First Show" —
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TRAIL ST. LADING
Shows
start at 8 PM

SEVEN DAYS

HOOKUPS

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WOMEN seeking

WOMEN IN VT 1 month

I'm looking for the summer. I'm going to be down and getting all situated. Would love a shopping, crafting and getting out and doing parties with another. Please respond with a few sentences. I'd like to make a few friends. hookups.7d.com

Men 40-55 in VT 1 month

I am a very happy going along in relationship. I am the playboy in a girl's world. I am a good listener. My's an all around kind of person. I like to meet people in the area. hookups.7d.com

WOMEN 30-45 in VT 1 month

I am looking for someone to be the health benefit of my life. I am looking for the potential ability to expand personal interests. I am looking for the saying one advantage has to be a condition that makes us play. I am looking for a partner to teach me new things. I am looking for a partner to teach me new things. I am looking for a partner to teach me new things. I am looking for a partner to teach me new things. I am looking for a partner to teach me new things. hookups.7d.com

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WOMEN 18-35 in VT 1 month

I am a 21 year old female, just looking for fun. I am independently living, unattached and have great sex. I am looking for someone from somewhere else and daily communication calls with lots of information. I am really open to anything. hookups.7d.com

Men 30-45 in VT 1 month

I am a 30 year old male looking for fun. I am independently living, unattached and have great sex. I am looking for someone from somewhere else and daily communication calls with lots of information. I am really open to anything. hookups.7d.com

Men 40-55 in VT 1 month

I am looking for someone fun to meet, hang out and have fun. hookups.7d.com

Relationships 30-55 in VT 1 month

The more issues we have the better. If you would like to be part of the family and have fun. My goal is to have a good time and enjoy each other. I am a father for one son, my boyfriend is in prison and wants to watch. That's why I am searching. hookups.7d.com

Women 40-55 in VT 1 month

I'm 40. I'm a single mom. I'm looking for a mom to mom friend. hookups.7d.com

MEN seeking

Men 30-45 in VT 1 month

I am a 30 year old looking for an attractive person who would be the focus of my life. I am looking for a partner to teach me new things. I am looking for a partner to teach me new things. I am looking for a partner to teach me new things. I am looking for a partner to teach me new things. I am looking for a partner to teach me new things. hookups.7d.com

Facilities & Adults 50+

I am a 45 year old that finds the enjoyment of money, making a connection or have someone for some reading between having myself and can make it out of a book and make up some other. hookups.7d.com

PLAYERS & MILITIA 50+

I enjoyed anyone who is looking for a real connection. I enjoy women with lots of sex with perhaps someone female. hookups.7d.com

PLAYERS & MILITIA 50+

I enjoyed anyone who is looking for a real connection. I enjoy women with lots of sex with perhaps someone female. hookups.7d.com

PLAYERS & MILITIA 50+

I enjoy sex. I am looking for a woman that gives me to have some fun. I am looking for a woman that gives me to have some fun. I am looking for a woman that gives me to have some fun. I am looking for a woman that gives me to have some fun. I am looking for a woman that gives me to have some fun. hookups.7d.com

PLAYERS & MILITIA 50+

I am a 50 year old male, just looking for fun. I am independently living, unattached and have great sex. I am looking for someone from somewhere else and daily communication calls with lots of information. I am really open to anything. hookups.7d.com

PLAYERS & MILITIA 50+

I am a 50 year old male, just looking for fun. I am independently living, unattached and have great sex. I am looking for someone from somewhere else and daily communication calls with lots of information. I am really open to anything. hookups.7d.com

PLAYERS & MILITIA 50+

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OTHER seeking?

SIMPLY 50+ 50+

I am currently dating, and looking for a play with me. I am looking for a woman who is looking for a man. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. hookups.7d.com

PLAYERS & MILITIA 50+

I am currently dating, and looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. hookups.7d.com

PLAYERS & MILITIA 50+

I am currently dating, and looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. hookups.7d.com

PLAYERS & MILITIA 50+

I am currently dating, and looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. hookups.7d.com

PLAYERS & MILITIA 50+

I am currently dating, and looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. hookups.7d.com

PLAYERS & MILITIA 50+

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PLAYERS & MILITIA 50+

I am currently dating, and looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. hookups.7d.com

PLAYERS & MILITIA 50+

I am currently dating, and looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. hookups.7d.com

PLAYERS & MILITIA 50+

I am currently dating, and looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. hookups.7d.com

PLAYERS & MILITIA 50+

I am currently dating, and looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. I am looking for a man who is looking for a woman. hookups.7d.com

Use your head to love, and last.

mistress maeve



Dear *maeve*, M.

We have good news and bad news. The latter is that after many years of giving advice to seven days readers, Mistress Maeve is moving on. She's said to leave us, and you believe, but she's making her way up the career ladder. It would not surprise us to someday find her advising the president. But not to worry: all you loveless, relationship-challenged and basically confused users, we've found another less-a-lemon to assume the advisee mantle. Here's how she asked us to introduce her:

Hello! My name is Athena. I am a third-generation matzavahavah vagabond. Love goddess and vagabond, and I am here for you.

But a question you can't split hairs on: your closest friend? Did you ever consider her? Well, she's got you all laid, sad or utterly perplexed at the head—just look, Athena.

Athena will begin next week, February 8. Meanwhile, enjoy Mistress Maeve's final column and, as always, head her words:

Dear *Mistress Maeve*,

My boyfriend of three and half years "breakup" with me, but she wants to be friends and "work on things." That was two weeks ago, and we still talk and text many times a day, and we still have lots of sex—but she says she won't have any physical relations with anyone else.

Am I confused? I don't want to leave on, but I'm not thinking with being dumped. Thoughts?



waiting for a promotion

Dear Waiting,

This is a classic case of someone having her cake and eating it, too—and she will continue to gorge until you put an end to this nonsense. Your "girlfriend" or "friend" (whatever she calls herself) now wants many of the benefits of the committed relationship you used to have without having to own up to being the girlfriend of anyone else. So yes, have her now, but you don't have her, and your use of "decorum" suggests you are none too pleased.

However, because you don't want to move on and have not any backup plan, she is able to get whatever she wants from you. Whether she wants to work out and exercise with you or do whatever the rest of your relationship used to do, she is able to do it. She is a manipulative, devious person, and if you can't have someone else, it's best to let her have her cake and eat it, too.

This is when you can say "Tell her what you want. Set those boundaries. If you don't want to be dumped then tell her. It could be painful." She might not give you the response you want, but maybe that's OK. You're free to be in a relationship with someone who wants to be with you in the streets as well as the sheets. If she can't share her cake with you, perhaps it's time to switch to pie.

With a dash on top,
mm

MEN seeking?

Men 30-45 in VT 1 month

I am a 30 year old looking for an attractive person who would be the focus of my life. I am looking for a partner to teach me new things. I am looking for a partner to teach me new things. I am looking for a partner to teach me new things. I am looking for a partner to teach me new things. I am looking for a partner to teach me new things. hookups.7d.com

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